

At least 10 die in Cairo house collapse

CAIRO (AP) — At least four neighbouring apartment buildings on a congested downtown street collapsed Sunday morning, killing at least 10 and leaving an unknown number of buried survivors calling for help, witnesses said. Police cordoned off the area, and people in neighbouring buildings were evacuated, fearing further collapses. Inhabitants along the street said they had seen at least 10 bodies being pulled from the rubble. Police confirmed only two and said three wounded had been found. There also was a conflict over the number of buildings involved. Residents said five fell, but an officer at Al Mosky police station said that four collapsed, two of them vacated by condemnation orders. Officials at the scene said the buildings housed around 25 families, or approximately 125 people. Rescue workers said they heard calls for help from beneath the rubble.

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Larzi reappointed Senate speaker

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Shamsi Al-Larzi, has been reappointed to his post by a Royal Decree. Mr. Larzi has served as speaker for two years and was reappointed for another two years on Jan. 12. Upon his reappointment, Mr. Larzi sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing his gratitude and vowing to continue his support for the King's leadership. "My reappointment to the post of speaker of the Upper House of Parliament tends to enhance my pride and great confidence in your leadership and in your endeavours to implement the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, designed to save the Arab Nation," Mr. Larzi said in his cable.

Delta Force may get Sicily base

BONN (R) — The NATO base at Sigonella, Sicily, could become the overseas home for the U.S. elite Delta Force, the West German magazine Spiegel said Sunday. Spiegel said the problem of finding Delta Force a base closer to the Middle East than its present Fort Bragg, North Carolina, home would figure prominently in confidential talks in Washington this week on improving U.S. special forces.

Final verdict says Khater hanged himself

CAIRO (AP) — The Egyptian court's verdict on Sunday ruled that a criminal suspect in the death of the Egyptian policeman who killed a Syrian Israeli, saying tests have proved that Sgt. Solomon Khater hanged himself. Ibrahim Mohammed Seleem, senior counsel for the Justice Ministry, made his comments to the Middle East news agency. "The tests performed on the samples of the deceased's stomach and intestines and food (the day that day) show they did not include any poison, tranquillizers or drugs," Seleem said. "Tests on the substance underneath his finger nails include no blood or human cells," he said, in an apparent reference to claims by opposition parties here and abroad that Khater was murdered. "The autopsy has shown that the cause of the death is suffocation from hanging," (See related story on page 2)

S. African black killed before meeting Crocker

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — U.S. envoy Chester Crocker toured troubled black townships near Johannesburg on Sunday, hours after a radical community leader scheduled to meet him was killed by police. Mr. Crocker, who was in South Africa on a mission to discuss the government of President P.W. Botha while visiting South Africa, was mobbed by blacks who shook his hand in poverty-stricken Durban. On Sunday, a 58-year-old community leader from nearby Lesotho who was due to meet Mr. Crocker on Sunday, was attacked by a group of conservative blacks. He was stabbed and his body was taken away in a van, his family said. Police

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U.S., Israeli recognition of Palestinian rights is key to peace — Regent

By Salameh B. Ne'matt and Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday called on the United States and Israel to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in order to find a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a speech delivered on his behalf at a seminar on Israel and Israeli-American relations, Prince Hassan said that a practical solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict "cannot be achieved without the fulfillment of Palestinian rights to self-determination" on their land. "Israel should respond to United Nations resolutions and withdraw from all territories it occupied in 1967, in return for a just and durable peace for all countries in the region," Prince Hassan said in his speech which was delivered by Dr. Hazem Nusabah, minister of state for prime ministry affairs who was deputizing for the Regent.

Jordan and Syria to strengthen border cooperation, Kayed says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria have agreed to maintain direct contacts through their respective security services in order to intensify their fight against drug smugglers and criminals, and also will hold consultations between provincial governors on border demarcations, Interior Minister Hassan Al-Kayed said here Sunday. Mr. Kayed, who returned from Damascus on Thursday, said his talks with his Syrian counterpart, Mohammad Ghahash, and other Syrian officials resulted in an agreement on entrusting joint border posts to handle emergency issues and unify office hours for the sake of providing better service to travellers across the border and trucks transporting goods between them. "We have also agreed that neither Jordan nor Syria will deport persons of foreign nationality to either country, but would rather return them to the country they came from," the minister said. It was also agreed that neither

of the border posts should stamp passports or travel papers belonging to Jordanians or Syrians deported from either country, and that authorities in both countries will deport persons trying to enter Jordan or Syria illegally and without official travel documents to the country that they came from, the minister added. The minister described the talks in Syria as fruitful and positive and said that both sides agreed on a number of principles to safeguard the interests of citizens from both countries and to facilitate travel procedures at the border posts. "We agreed on measures enabling land owners across the border on either side to cultivate it freely and on means for ensuring the rights of such farmers and the removal of all obstacles impeding their work," the minister pointed out. He said that the provincial governors have been entrusted with sufficient authority to handle issues related to travellers and farmers in their region. More discussions on these issues will be held during Mr. Ghahash's forthcoming visit to Jordan, Mr. Kayed announced.

The minister was accompanied on his visit to Syria by Public Security Director Abdul Haki Al-Majali, Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al-Amin, Mafrak Governor Fayez Al-Abadi and other officials. Mr. Kayed said that his visit was designed to bolster ties of common interest between Jordan and Syria in implementation of principles laid down by His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad. In a cable he sent to Mr. Ghahash Saturday, Mr. Kayed expressed appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation during the visit, and the fruitful talks held between the two sides. Mr. Kayed emphasised in his cable the need for pursuing brotherly dialogue to serve the Syrian and Jordanian interests and confront common challenges.

Howe begins talks in Oman on Gulf war, Mideast issue

MUSCAT, Oman (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe held a session of cooperation talks here on Sunday with Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Ibn Al-Awaj, on means of ending the Iran-Iraq war and solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The secretary, who arrived on Saturday as part of a Gulf tour which is to take him later to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, was expected to include the problem of international terrorism in his talks here, British diplomatic sources told the AP. Sir Geoffrey was to have an audience with Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id later in the day, Foreign Ministry officials said. "If the United Arab Emirates, the Al Khaleef newspaper meanwhile quoted Mr. Howe as saying that Britain "sees nothing new it can do" to bring the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war to an end. But the Gulf conflict, he said, remained the top item on the agenda of any meeting he held with his counterparts in the Gulf. Responding to a question, Mr. Howe said that diplomatic ties between the Soviet Union and the Arab countries of the Gulf region "is by no means an abnormal development." He said that the Soviet Union, a superpower, "naturally has an important role to play" in the Gulf region. Mr. Howe told Al Khaleef that the Mideast peace process was continuing, praising King Hussein for maintaining momentum and vitality of the peace drive.

Israeli leaders try to work out Taba formula

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Senior members of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet met on Sunday to vote on a proposal to resolve a border dispute with Egypt that Israel hopes will pave the way for progress in Mideast peace efforts. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. and was expected to continue as long as it took to adopt a final decision on the long-time controversy. Peres has threatened to resign unless the 10-member inner cabinet agrees to arbitration to resolve the disputed one-square-kilometre Taba beachfront strip along the Red Sea. The Taba issue is seen as a major roadblock to improving ties with Egypt. Peres has said that the durability of links between the two countries will determine whether Israel can conclude other agreements with other Arab countries. Israeli approval of the proposal to resolve Taba, reached with Egypt after months of negotiations, appeared to hinge on face-saving concessions to right-wing Likud governing partners. The Likud bloc, led by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, has consistently opposed arbitration, warning that it could force Israel

to relinquish the northern Sinai area. Likud deputies accused Peres, leader of the Labour Party, of forcing a show-down to topple the fragile 15-month old governing coalition and thus avoid honouring an agreement that calls for him to give the premiership in October to Shamir. Peres' deputies said the prime minister's understanding with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak calls for Egypt to return to Tel Aviv the ambassador recalled in 1982 in protest of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Likud Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo said on Israel Radio that the plan to return the ambassador and other Egyptian promises to improve ties must be in writing. Shamir and the other four Likud members of the inner cabinet were finalising their demands at a last-minute session. One demand was expected to be a commitment from Egypt "to cease cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation," Milo said. Labour Party Secretary Uzi Baram warned that Peres could agree only to minor changes that would not require further consultations with the Egyptians.

Columbia takes off at 7th bid

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Agencies) — Columbia and a crew of seven shed a postponement jinx on Sunday and thundered away from earth and into orbit to kick off America's busiest year in space with the first of 15 scheduled shuttle launches. The 100-tonne spaceship roared from its seaside launch pad on time at 6:55 a.m. (1155 GMT) after being delayed a record seven times in three weeks by a series of frustrating mechanical and meteorological setbacks.

On board the first shuttle mission of 1986 were U.S. Congressman Bill Nelson and the first Hispanic-American astronaut.



DUTCH GUESTS LEAVE: Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands shakes hands with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai as Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath looks on as the queen and her husband Prince Claus (to the queen's right) leave

Amman on Sunday after an overnight visit. In photo on right His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, bids farewell to Queen Beatrix (Petra photos)

Israelis maintain Nablus curfew and arrest many after ambush

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops maintained a curfew in the central marketplace of Nablus in the occupied West Bank on Sunday after arresting an unknown number of Palestinians in connection with an ambush on Saturday in which an Israeli policeman was killed and another was wounded.

Five Palestinians, including three women, were wounded by gunfire as Israeli troops opened fire at the spot of attack on Saturday but the Israeli army contended on Sunday that the five were hurt by ricochets and rock fragments. Three different Palestinian factions — two of them opposed to the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat — claimed responsibility for the Nablus attack. The Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, carried a statement by the mainstream PLO leadership saying that a unit named "Hamam Al

Shari" (Martyrs of Shari — the site of the Oct. 1 Israeli bombing in Tunis) carried out the ambush. One claim was made by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of Dr. George Habash in a communique issued in Damascus. The communique said a "PFLP unit based in occupied territories staged the Nablus operation that resulted in the killing and wounding a number of Israeli troops."

The other claim was made by the Beirut newspaper An-Nahar by a breakaway faction from the PLO mainstream Fatah organisation headed by Col. Saeed Musa (Abu Mussa). An-Nahar said an Arabic-speaking caller in Beirut told the newspaper Abu Musa's "Fatah uprising movement" was responsible for the Nablus attack. No details on the operation were given in either claim.

Saturday's attack came amid escalating anti-Israeli attacks in and near the West Bank.

An Israeli source told the AP that Cpl. Jamil Faris, an Israeli Druze, died at a hospital shortly after the noon-time attack after he stepped out of a clothing store in the commercial centre of Nablus, 18 kilometres north of Jerusalem. The assault moderately wounded a second Israeli border guard, who was not identified. The source denied reports by the Palestine Press Service which monitors news in the West Bank that Israeli troops opened fire on civilians, but said the soldiers clamped a curfew on the city forcing its 80,000 inhabitants indoors. The source also said that the attack occurred when the policemen were travelling in a jeep. The green-uniformed border policemen are a branch of the military.

Iranians stop and search U.S. ship

ABU DHABI (R) — Iranian naval personnel boarded and searched a U.S. cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman on Sunday, the first such incident involving an American vessel in the Gulf war. An officer aboard the ship, the President Tyler, owned by the American President Line, said it was stopped by an Iranian naval vessel at 10 a.m. (0600 GMT) and boarded 15 minutes later.

Contacted by Reuters on shore-to-ship radio, the officer, who did not identify himself, said Iranian personnel inspected the vessel and then left it at 10:50 a.m. and allowed it to proceed. The 27,000-tonne container ship dropped anchor off the port of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday afternoon and U.S. embassy officials were expected to question the crew.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the President Tyler was stopped in the Gulf of Oman and released two hours later after an inspection showed no Iraqi-bound cargo was aboard. There was no indication as to whether American warships that patrol the area intervened. The radio call to the ship was cut before the crew could be questioned on this.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Bruce Ammann said the ship had been stopped in international waters and the incident was regarded as "a matter of serious concern."

The Iranian news agency, meanwhile, said the West German ship Ville de Sahara was released on Sunday after a three-day inspection in an Iranian port.

A West German embassy official in Tehran said the 12,960-tonne container ship was carrying an assorted cargo for various Gulf ports, but nothing for Iraq. Ville de Sahara was the 14th foreign ship conducted to an Iranian port for checks since Iraq started bombing Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island in mid-August.

Qadhafi invites Reagan to visit his headquarters

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has extended an invitation to President Ronald Reagan to visit him in his tent headquarters. "Yes, why not?" Colonel Qadhafi told six women journalists during a two-hour interview on Saturday in the tent at his heavily fortified barracks headquarters where he entertains his family as well as world leaders.

"If Reagan comes here, he will change his mind (about Qadhafi)," the 43-year-old Libyan colonel asserted. "He would see that I don't live in trenches, wearing hand grenades in my belt — that it is not that I don't laugh or smile and have no family, and that I hate."

"He would change, I know," he added. "I invite him through you."

Col. Qadhafi made the remarks during an informal session on Saturday night in the tent of red, green and yellow cloth, surrounded for part of the interview by Safiya, his 32-year-old wife, and four of his eight children.

Mr. Reagan and Col. Qadhafi have a history of mutual antagonism.

Mr. Reagan has called Col. Qadhafi "the world's number one terrorist," accusing the Libyan of supporting terrorism, including the recent airport attacks.

He also dubbed him, "a flaky barbarian." Col. Qadhafi, for his part, has termed the American leader, "an Israeli dog," "a failed actor" and charged him with being the chief source of problems in the Middle East.

The already hostile relations between the United States and Libya took a sharp plunge recently after the Dec. 27 attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports.

The United States and Israel both have accused Libya of supporting Palestinian renegade Abu Nidal, to whose group the airport commandos claimed to belong. Col. Qadhafi, while maintaining his strong support for the Palestinian cause, has sought to dissociate himself from individual actions, calling the airport attacks "unlawful" and conceding they hurt the Palestinian image.

In his Saturday night interview, Col. Qadhafi cited a report by the Libyan news agency JANA that said the Reagan administration had declared "a state of national emergency" to face the Libyan threat.

Said Col. Qadhafi, "We laugh when we hear about this. Because we have no hostile intentions to do these dangerous things against the United States."

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Dutch alert spreads to include American targets

THE HAGUE (AP) — The Abu Nidal extremist alert gripping The Netherlands was expanded Sunday to include U.S. diplomatic and commercial offices as well as Jewish and Israeli institutions, the Dutch Justice Ministry disclosed.

A high alert in both The Netherlands and Scandinavia began Thursday and Friday, with Interpol warnings of a possible strike against Jewish or Israeli targets by gunmen under the direction of the Abu Nidal faction, and believed loose in the region.

No extremist-related incidents or arrests were reported in any of the four nations over the weekend, and Scandinavian authorities said Sunday that their original alert continued, but had not

been expanded to include possible American targets.

The access road to the front of the American embassy in The Hague was blocked by sand-filled dumpsters at each end Sunday night, and police converged on the scene within minutes to investigate the flash of a photographer's camera.

But Dutch authorities warned privately on Sunday that the expanded alert made guarding potential American targets, as well as Israeli and Jewish ones, "practically impossible."

"There had been talk for a few days that American targets could be endangered," said Dutch Justice Ministry spokeswoman Toos Faber.

PLO leaders meet in Baghdad

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Central Committee of Fatah were scheduled to start a meeting in Baghdad on Sunday or early Monday to discuss the organisation's position on Middle East peace efforts in the light of the latest Palestinian and Arab developments.

Well-informed Palestinian sources said the Baghdad meetings were expected to review developments pertaining to the PLO's relations with Jordan, the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement, the U.S.-Libyan crisis and recent talks between senior Soviet officials and the head of the PLO's political department.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was in Qatar on Sunday and was expected to fly to Baghdad later in the day for the meetings. PLO officials said in Amman, Mr. Arafat visited Saudi Arabia before arriving in Doha on Sunday for talks with senior Qatari leaders.

The Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat is expected to come to Amman immediately after the Baghdad meetings for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Arafat was expected in Amman two weeks ago but Palestinian officials said the delay in the PLO chairman's visit to Jordan was a result of his previously arranged engagements in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The officials refused to link the delay in Mr. Arafat's visit to Amman with the PLO's position on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. "Mr. Arafat will soon come to Jordan regardless of the PLO leadership's final decision on 242 and 338," the officials said. They did not say whether the Baghdad meetings were expected to come out with such a final decision.

The PLO leadership decided in last November to delay its decision on 242 and 338 until after learning the results of the Geneva summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. But so far no news on a superpower agreement on the Middle East conflict has emerged and Washington still refuses to deal with the PLO unless the organisation accepts the two key U.N. resolutions. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called on the PLO to accept the two resolutions before the end of this month or "it risks everything."

There have been no indications that the PLO was moving towards accepting 242 and 338 without reciprocal U.S. guarantees that such an acceptance would ensure a direct PLO participation in a proposed international conference and American and Israeli recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Palestinian sources said in Amman on Sunday that the PLO leadership was probably seeking a compromise formula under which it would not have to accept 242 and 338 without any tangible and guaranteed gains in return. The sources said, however, they did not expect the Baghdad meetings to announce a firm PLO position on the issue but said Mr. Arafat himself will convey it to the King.

One of the major events that added a new dimension to the issue was last week's visit to Moscow by Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. During the visit, Mr. Kaddoumi held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and at the conclusion of the visit, both men reaffirmed the need for an international conference on the Mideast. Though no further details were available on the Moscow discussions, Mr. Kaddoumi's Soviet visit itself was seen as an indication of an improvement in relations between the leadership of the PLO and the Kremlin.

The Soviet leadership has expressed reservations over the Feb. (Continued on page 3)

Gemayel told that he may be forced to accept militia pact

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel goes to Damascus on Monday warned that he faces possible military action unless he backs a Syrian-brokered militia pact to end civil war in Lebanon.

Mr. Gemayel, who has yet to endorse the pact, is expected to tell Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that several of Lebanon's Christian leaders oppose the tripartite agreement.

Shi'ite militia chief Nabih Berri, one of the signatories, said on Saturday that unless the Christian president gave the agreement his support, he would be forced to do so.

The summit, widely seen here as decisive for restoring peace in Lebanon, will be the 11th between Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Assad in two years. Their previous meetings have all been in Syria, while Mr. Assad has visited Lebanon once during the past 10 years.

Addressing Mr. Gemayel through reporters, Mr. Berri said: "As we force you to cancel (the May 1983 accord), we will force you to accept the agreement."

Mr. Berri's Amal militia, allies of Syria, wrested control of west Beirut from troops loyal to Mr. Gemayel in February 1984, compelling the president to revoke the accord which provided for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Syria and Lebanon's leftist militias opposed the accord, saying it infringed on Lebanese sovereignty and threatened Syrian security.

Assem Kanso, another militia leader closely linked with Syria, told the Al Hakika newspaper that anyone blocking the pact would have to face the consequences.

Mr. Kanso, leader of the Syrian Arab Baath Party in Lebanon, said Syria had "many options" if Mr. Gemayel rejected the pact.

The peace agreement was signed on Dec. 28 by Mr. Berri, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia chief Walid Junblatt and mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia commander Elie Hobeika.

Mr. Gemayel, who took no part in the negotiations, is believed to resent the importance accorded Elie Hobeika as the Christian spokesman during three months of intensive peace talks.

Some Christian politicians oppose the pact because it gives the Muslim majority a greater share of power and reduces the Christian presidency's prerogatives by abolishing the current inter-sect power sharing system.

Argument over the pact has split the Christian leadership, with Beirut media reporting a three-way struggle involving Mr. Hobeika, his hardline chief of staff Samir Geagea and Mr. Gemayel.

The pro-Gemayel Al Amal newspaper said the peace agreement threatened to make Mr. Gemayel's Maronite community

like "Red Indians in the United States."

A committee of delegates from the pact's three militia signatories issued a statement Saturday night, brushing aside what it said were Mr. Gemayel's reservations.

It said the militia agreement envisaged phased political reforms, linked to the ending of hostilities and restoration of law and order.

"The Maronite community's role has not become secondary at all," it said. "Instead, the agreement provides for a climate of collective partnership..."

The tripartite committee defended the pact's provisions for enlarging parliament and setting up a senate.

"Those who stand to suffer (through the agreement) or who tamper with the fate of the homeland will not be permitted to escalate the game of death, impoverishment, dismemberment and destruction of a unified, free, recovered Lebanon," it said.

The As-Safir newspaper, reporting in Damascus, said Mr. Gemayel's visit to Syria was of historical importance and compared it to his first summit with Mr. Assad on March 1, 1984, when Mr. Gemayel revoked the accord with Israel.

"In Damascus they see the agreement as a new and important round in the confrontation with Israel and will not allow anyone to make them lose this round, especially for silly reasons..." it said.

Khamenei's visit to Pakistan seen as significant

ISLAMABAD (R) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei arrives here on Monday for a three-day visit that will signal a warm relationship between the two neighbouring Islamic nations.

The visit is the first to Pakistan by an Iranian president since Tehran's 1979 Islamic revolution, after which relations between the two former close allies became cool.

Mr. Khamenei and Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq will discuss bilateral ties, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Gulf war, the Palestinian problem and the role of superpowers in world affairs, Pakistani officials said. Both nations are members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Pakistan is a member of an Islamic peace committee which has been trying to mediate between Iran and Iraq since early 1981.

"The visit will undoubtedly serve to further consolidate friendship and mutual understanding," one official said.

He said talks would also be held on the regional grouping which Iran, Pakistan and Turkey decided to revive under the new name of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), aimed at coordinating trade and economic development.

Pakistan's close ties with the United States kept Tehran's revolutionary rulers from befriending Islamabad although they both strongly opposed the Soviet military presence in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Iran also resented complaints by Pakistani Shi'ites of denial of their religious rights by a Sunni government in Islamabad. Islamabad has set up a committee to study the Shi'ite complaints and last month Gen. Zia named a Shi'ite former army chief Mohammad Musa Khan, as governor of the southwestern province of Baluchistan which borders with Iran.

Trade between Iran and Pakistan grew gradually after the Islamic revolution and was worth \$531.2 million in the financial year 1983/84 (July/June). But it declined to \$150 million in 1984/85.

Last September, the two countries signed an agreement to boost their trade to the level of \$400 million in a year.

Iran is fighting to prevent the through-traffic in narcotics and says there is also a drug problem at home.

The head of Iran's Islamic revolutionary anti-narcotics court told Tehran Radio that 712 addicts were picked up by patrols in Tehran in the last Iranian month, and that 19 had sought assistance of their own accord.

In the same month, some 1,257 suspected drug traders and smugglers were arrested in the capital, while two kilograms of heroin, 68 kilograms of opium and 17 kilograms of hashish were seized, the official said.

The Tehran court, meanwhile, released 370 people, sent 1,097 to prison, 62 to Iran's rehabilitation centre on a Gulf island, and sentenced 17 others to death, he said.

He said hospitals tried to make medicinal drugs out of seized narcotics, but so far heroin had not been found useful. In a successful experiment, 162 kilograms of cocaine was extracted from some 854 kilograms of morphine, he said.

Arab-American leader to defy Reagan ban on travel

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of the American-Arab Relations Committee said on Saturday that he would defy U.S. President Ronald Reagan's ban on travel to Libya in order to meet with Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

M.T. Mehdi, who heads the New York-based group, said he is convinced that Mr. Reagan's executive orders containing sanctions against Libya are unconstitutional. He said he would leave Thursday for Libya.

In a speech last Tuesday, Mr. Reagan declared Libya a "threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

He issued an order severing economic ties with Libya and ordering American citizens there to leave by Feb. 1.

The Reagan administration issued an executive order in 1981 making it illegal to travel to Libya under an American passport.

Mr. Mehdi, referring to both the

travel restriction and the economic sanctions, called Mr. Reagan's orders an "unreasonable exercise of constitutional authority by the president and most probably unconstitutional."

He said he would be willing to challenge the travel restriction in court if he is arrested upon his return from Libya. Mr. Mehdi, who was born in Iraq, is a naturalised American citizen.

He said he believed the administration's orders are unconstitutional because they are based on the assumption that Libya is a threat to the national security.

"If little Libya is a threat to this gigantic and mighty USA, then the USA must have been established on a foundation of clay," Mr. Mehdi said.

He added that he intended to tell Col. Qadhafi "to mind his own business of developing Libya, to forget about the arms race."

Iran calls for withdrawal of Muslim, Arab funds from U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran termed the United States freezing of Libyan assets "robbery" and called on Islamic and Arab states to withdraw their deposits from U.S. banks, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported Sunday.

The agency, which is monitored here, said the call for retaliatory action was made in a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehran Saturday night.

The statement strongly condemned the decision of the U.S. government to impose sanctions on Libya and to freeze Libyan assets in the United States and "called on Muslim and Third World states to retaliate to the robbery of the assets of Muslim states and the American terrorist acts," IRNA reported.

IRNA added that the foreign ministry statement also "urged Arab and Muslim states, as well as all countries opposing the domination of the superpowers, to withdraw their deposits from U.S. banks."

"By doing so these countries will show the United States that they are ready to confront the boundless U.S. support for the Zionist regime, as well as the U.S. threatening of Islamic and Third World countries," the statement added, IRNA reported.

There was no immediate official or press response in Libya to the KUNA report.

KUNA quoted a diplomat as its source for the report.

It did not identify the diplomat, saying only he was based in Beirut. The news agency reported he said

the warplane was downed Wednesday by a Soviet-made SAM missile as it flew over the Gulf of Sidra.

The Coral Sea had departed from Naples, Italy, on Jan. 3 with about eight other vessels from the Sixth Fleet, and Libyan lead Muammar Qadhafi charged the America was massing warships of Libya for an attack.

Washington denied that assertion and said the task force was on a routine exercise in the western Mediterranean and far off Libya.

White House spokesman Pete Roussett told reporters in Washington he had nothing to add to the Defence Department comments.

"We have no information to confirm that an American aircraft was shot down by Libya," Roussett said.

Officials at the El Toro marine base near San Diego, California, reported the missing pilot was Maj. John Nicholas Summerlin, 38, and a native of Fort Pierce, Florida. They said a search for the plane and pilot was called off Friday.

Maj. Summerlin's sister, Sharon Langel, was quoted as saying Saturday that the family was told the day before that the pilot was presumed dead.

"They turned around because of a storm was the story they were giving us," Mrs. Langel was quoted as saying by the Post newspaper of West Palm Beach, Florida.

"It (Libyan involvement) makes a little more sense than him going down on his own... he was a very good pilot, one of the best, we've always heard. So him going down in a storm didn't make sense."

U.S. denies Libya downed missing jet

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has admitted that one of its jets was missing, but denied reports of a Libyan anti-aircraft missile shot down an American aircraft over the Mediterranean earlier this week.

An F-18 aircraft from the USS Coral Sea disappeared on Wednesday during a routine training mission, a Defence Department spokesman said Saturday night.

He called a Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) report that Libyan anti-aircraft missiles shot down a U.S. plane "totally without foundation. No U.S. aircraft have been lost to hostile action."

A navy spokesman said the missing plane was believed to have crashed at sea south of Nice, France. An investigation into the incident was continuing, he said.

U.S. navy spokesman Bill Sonntag said the plane was on a training mission off Nice when it vanished Wednesday.

Asked about the KUNA report, Sonntag said, "the status of the plane is missing and believed lost."

"The Department of Defence is denying the allegations that the F-18 was shot down as being without foundation. We have not lost any aircraft to hostile action," he said.

Sonntag said he did not know where the Coral Sea was located when the twin-engine plane took off.

There was no immediate official or press response in Libya to the KUNA report.

KUNA quoted a diplomat as its source for the report.

It did not identify the diplomat, saying only he was based in Beirut. The news agency reported he said

Italy is running high risk, Craxi tells parliament

ROME (Agencies) — Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has warned that because of unresolved conflicts in the Mediterranean region Italy runs a high risk of more attacks like the airport gun battle in which 16 people died last month.

Mr. Craxi said in a half-yearly report to parliament on the activities of the civilian and military intelligence services that both groups had unmasked more than 70 foreign spies in the past six months, an above-average haul interpreted as a sign of Italy's vulnerability to external ferment.

Mr. Craxi listed the Palestinian problem and Lebanon as two of the "high risk factors" that threatened Italy with further guerrilla violence.

He warned of the "permanent danger posed by certain Middle East groups whose terrorist initiatives can be seen in the wider context of international subversion."

Mr. Craxi's report to parliament, a confidential document which was quoted widely and consistently in Italian newspapers, said divisions within the Palestinian movement and between moderate and hardline Arab governments could also foster guer-

rilla attacks involving Italy. Italian counter-intelligence identified more than 70 foreign spies in the six months to last Oct. 22, according to the report. It gave no comparative figure, and did not name the nationalities of the spies.

But state radio RAI said the figure was higher than for any other six-month period and Mr. Craxi had deliberately inflated it out of concern at the increasing use of Italy as a target for violence that had its roots elsewhere.

One theory, the report said, was that a criminal "freelance agency" operating from Rome could supply Italian urban guerrillas or groups of foreigners with arms they needed for attacks like the Fiumicino airport raid on Dec. 27.

Government officials meanwhile released the text of a letter by Mr. Craxi to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Friday in which he stressed the government's "intransigent firmness in fighting international terrorism."

But the Italian leader also spoke of his fundamental conviction that this fight would be vain "if efforts are not also made to overcome the root causes that favour the development of terrorism."

Egyptian minister vows to restore order

CAIRO (R) — Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi has accused Muslim fundamentalists, communists and Nasserites of using the death of a policeman who killed seven Israelis to incite trouble, and vowed to restore order.

Mr. Rushdi said 47 people had been arrested in disturbances sparked by the death in custody last week of police conscript Sulaiman Khater, and said a five-day police siege of Khater's village would continue until calm was restored.

He told parliamentarians of the ruling National Democratic Party Sunday night that an autopsy on Khater, 25, showed he had died from asphyxia caused by hanging, and not strangulation.

Khater's family and opposition politicians have accused the government of killing him. He was found dead in his cell in a military hospital last Tuesday, 10 days after a military court jailed him for life with hard labour for killing seven Israelis.

Mubarak, Spanish defence chief discuss ties, Mideast

CAIRO (Agencies) — Spanish Defence Minister Narcis Serra discussed increasing bilateral political and military cooperation as well as the Middle East situation during a one-hour meeting with President Hosni Mubarak here on Sunday.

"Our (bilateral) cooperation is very good, and we can increase our cooperation to give it more of a political content by exchanging periodically points of view between ministers," Mr. Serra told reporters afterwards.

He said he and Mr. Mubarak had also discussed how to increase "co-production in the industry of equipment for armed forces," but gave no details.

Spain has supplied Egypt with hundreds of millions of dollars worth of arms and military equipment, including MX30 light tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks.

In advance of Mr. Serra's visit, which began on Wednesday, Spain's independent news agency Europa Press reported that the Defence Ministry did not expect the Cairo talks to produce major new arms contracts.

Europa Press said Egypt has not yet paid for its purchases and Mr. Serra was expected to raise this in talks with his Egyptian counterpart Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala.

On Spain's plan to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, which has been pending since December 1982, Mr. Serra denied that the European Community — which Spain joined on Jan. 1, was pressuring it into forming relations with the Jewish state.

He declined to make further comments on the subject.

Spain has, on several occasions this year, reaffirmed its decision to go ahead with plans to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The reiterated came in the wake of Arab and Islamic calls against the move.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibbi said last week that he planned to visit Spain in March to discuss the issue with Spanish government leaders.

Reuters quoted informed sources as saying that Egypt and Spain plan to jointly produce warships and military trucks, and are considering building a new tank

Iranian court destroys record heroin haul

TEHRAN (R) — A huge 8.6 tonnes of heroin was burned on Saturday by Iran's anti-narcotics court.

Iranian border police and other security forces seized the drug over an undefined period, probably years, from smugglers who cross Iran from eastern Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Iranian Television showed a long line of sacks piled waist-high being lit with gasoline on a patch of wasteland outside Tehran. The heroin was burned with 1.76 tonnes of opium and hashish.

N. Yemen expects Israeli raid

ABU DHABI (R) — North Yemen, host to several Palestinian military bases, is expecting an Israeli raid in retaliation for last month's attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, its deputy premier was quoted on Sunday as saying.

"We received information about a possible Israeli attack, and we are ready to counter any aggression," Abdul Karim Al Iryani, who is also foreign minister, told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad in an interview.

Israel has vowed to "avenge" the airport attacks.

U.S. to sell 40 F-16 jets to Greece

ATHENS (R) — The United States has officially told Greece that it had approved the sale of 40 U.S. F-16 interceptor planes which Athens had sought to modernise its air force.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Kealey called on Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu on Saturday to tell him the U.S. government had given its final approval to the sale, a government spokesman said.

The United States has delayed agreement on the sale, seeking guarantees against technology leaks.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111

MAIN CHANNEL

16:03	Korun
16:03	Cartoons
16:03	Mickey Mouse
17:15	Religious programme
18:03	Small World
18:35	Kuwait Series
19:15	Local programme on development
20:30	News in Arabic
20:40	Arabic series
21:40	Local Comedy
22:00	Tomorrow's programme
22:10	The Road to Jerusalem
23:10	News in Arabic
23:10	The Road to Jerusalem contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

16:30	French Programme: Pluk naufrage de l'espace
19:30	News in French
19:30	Magazine Sport
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Bothe Boys
21:05	Jordanian artists
21:10	Tender is the Night Legs
22:00	News in English
22:10	Dallas

RADIO JORDAN

85.5 KHz. AM & FM
partly on 97.0 KHz. NW

7.30-11.15

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News
10:05	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumental
14:15	Over a Cup of Tea
15:00	Concert Hour
15:30	News Summary
16:00	Instrumental
16:05	Old Favourites
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	The 15th Century A.H.
18:00	Pop Session
18:30	News Summary
18:35	Sports Round-up
18:45	Special Feature
19:30	Newsweek
19:35	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show

21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Contd.
21:15	News Summary
21:20	Evening Show Contd.
21:25	News Summary
21:30	Evening Show Contd.
21:35	News Summary
21:40	Evening Show Contd.
21:45	News Summary
21:50	Evening Show Contd.
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show Contd.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639.720, 1413 KHz

06:00	Newsday 06:30 Foreign Affairs
06:05	Natural Selection 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:30
07:30	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
07:35	Letterbox 07:45 Reporting of the Week 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Comments of Faith 09:00 World News 09:30
09:30	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
09:35	09:40 Newsday 09:45 Newsday 10:00
10:00	News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Foreign Affairs 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00
11:00	World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial News 11:00 Look Ahead 11:05 Preview's Choice 12:00 News Summary, Questions 12:15 Science in Action 12:30 Hillville USA 12:00 World News 12:30
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Regent receives credentials of five new ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received on Sunday the credentials of five newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan.

The five new envoys included Mr. Samir Balan of Turkey, Mr. Terry Goggins of Australia, Mr. Gurucharan Singh of India, Mr. Khamis bin Hamid bin Seif Al Bikhshi of Oman, and Mr. Horacio Pinedo of Argentina.

Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Nayef bin Zaid and Acting Foreign Minister Hazem Nusseibeh attended the presentation ceremony at the Royal Court.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is shown here receiving the credentials of five new ambassadors to Jordan. From left to right, the five are Mr. Samir Balan of Turkey, Mr. Terry Goggins of Australia, Mr. Gurucharan Singh of India, Mr. Khamis bin Hamid bin Seif Al Bikhshi of Oman, and Mr. Horacio Pinedo of Argentina (Petra photo).

Exemptions from LSD fees announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Three institutions and charitable societies which carry out housing projects in Jordan and the residents of these projects have been exempted from paying registration fees to the Land and Survey Department (LSD) upon the transfer of ownership, according to new regulations issued Saturday by LSD Director Badri Al Mulaqi.

Youth minister leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Hisham Al Sharazi leaves for Baghdad Monday to take part in a meeting by the Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports Council due to open in the Iraqi capital on Tuesday.

The minister will submit during the four-day meeting proposals on a fund for supporting and financing Arab sports installations.

Tourism authorities seek to encourage domestic tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The Tourism Authority has prepared all the necessary studies and designs for setting up a tourist village in Wadi Rum which would be a centre for desert tourism, mountaineering and gliders.

Tourism Authority Director General Nasri Attallah and the director general of the Tourist Investments Department Zuhair Al Ajlouni recently made an inspection tour of Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba, where they met with provincial governors and representatives of tourist organisations. During these meetings they discussed ways of improving and diversifying tourist services and the projects which the authority is intending to execute in Wadi Petra and Wadi Rum in order to give tourists the opportunity for longer visits and encourage Jordanian citizens' visit these areas.

JOSYICO board to review operations and investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Jordan Syrian Industry Company (JOSYICO) will hold a meeting in Damascus on Tuesday to discuss the company's general budget and review a report on the company's operations in 1984.

During the two-day session, the board members will hold a general review of the performance of the company and also endorse a budget for investments in 1986, JOSYICO spokesman said here Saturday.

WAJ's new plant takes the sting out of sewage

By Moska Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The rapid development in Jordan during the last decades has led not only to a better standard of living but also to increasing amounts of waste and sewage to be disposed of safely. Until recently, most of Amman's waste went to Ain Ghazal Treatment Plant, which has a capacity of 15,000 cubic metres (m³) per day. However, lately it received up to 30,000 m³ daily, resulting in only partial treatment of much of the water leaving the plant.

This intolerable situation led to the planning and construction of a new sewage treatment plant at Khirbet As Samra, about 40 km northeast of Amman, under the authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammed Keilani told the Jordan Times.

Once it is operating at full capacity, the new plant will be able to treat up to 148,000 cubic metres per day, the equivalent of the waste water of 60 per cent of Jordan's population. Since June 1985, about 53,000 cubic metres are treated daily at the new plant.

The waste stabilisation ponds built at Khirbet As Samra are unique in Jordan and only a very few exist in the region, said Mr. Keilani. The main principle of the treatment is the closest possible imitation of the waste decomposition processes going on in natural bodies of water, called the WAJ's "Director of Treatment Plants" Department Saeed Al Saleem. This decomposition is basically the breaking up of organic matter contained in the water by the action of bacteria and small organisms with or without the presence of oxygen.

The great advantage of this treatment is that it needs almost no additional energy input, as the water flows through the plant by force of gravity and the actual treatment is powered by sunlight and wind.

The decision to build the Khirbet As Samra plant was mainly taken on the grounds of the considerable financial advantage of this solution over the original plans to extend the old Ain Ghazal plant and to build three new ones at various locations. The estimated cost for these projects, according to the WAJ, would have been JD 21 million, plus high maintenance and operation costs. Reduced to cost per cubic metre, these were 85 fils against only 21.4 fils for the waste stabilisation ponds.

The design of Khirbet As Samra effects its particular action: It consists of many very large ponds and the water surface alone is 18 hectares.

An important point is that the type of treatment plant is usually well adapted to dry and

climatic. The best conditions for the biological processes in the ponds are a mean summer temperature of at or above 30°C and high solar radiation, as well as strong winds, all present in most parts of the Kingdom. The capacity of waste stabilisation ponds is also much higher than that of the tanks of a common treatment plant. However, as Dr. Salem pointed out, it needs a large gently sloping area to be built on, so it is not suitable for all locations in Jordan. This is also the reason for the plant's location far from Amman: land near the city would have too expensive, Dr. Sa'ad added.

The new plant was constructed by a contracting firm from Tyre and financed by the government through a World Bank credit of a total cost of JD 17 million.

Plant design

A 40 km pipeline transports the sewage from Ain Ghazal here to the plant, the water travels exactly 22 hours. Coarse material is currently removed manually at Ain Ghazal, but this will be discontinued as soon as Khirbet As Samra is working at full capacity, probably sometime this year.

A closer look at the plant's design shows that each of the ponds, different biological processes are taking place. The ponds are arranged in lines of 12 each, a so-called "train" of which there are three to a total of 36 ponds. Each constitutes a separate treatment unit, so that the plant can be extended by adding more units to it. Engineer Jamal Al Fakhri of the WAJ explained that in the first two ponds of the train, which are between 5 metres deep, the waste water is broken down by anaerobic bacteria — basically a fermentation process — and some of the material settles to the bottom of the ponds.

About eight days in the anaerobic "facultative ponds" the waste between 2.5 and 1.5 metres deep. Here, a combination of aerobic and anaerobic decomposition is employed. The aerobic processes, during which the bacteria use oxygen to digest the waste, are gradually getting the better of it as the water is becoming cleaner. Anaerobic decomposition takes place in the lower layers of the water (as it does in any natural body of water) while the aerobic breakdown occurs in the upper layers, where the penetrating sunlight induces the growth of photosynthetic bacteria. These are able to grow very rapidly and are excellent indicators of the water's quality.

Following the facultative ponds are "maturation ponds", with a depth of about 1.2 metres, in which the water remains for about two weeks. Here, the exclusively aerobic conditions permit abundant growth of photosynthetic plants producing additional oxygen which is then available for the complete oxygenation of any waste components still left.

The last stage is the chlorination of the fully treated water before it flows down the wadi into the Zaqra River, which it joins near Sukhna.

Monitoring the treatment process

Khirbet As Samra is the first sewage treatment plant of its type operating in Jordan and the natural processes by which it works are extremely vulnerable, so that careful monitoring of the project is an absolute necessity, said Dr. Salem. The WAJ has recently signed an agreement with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), under which the RSS in January 1986 is beginning a three-year integrated study on the quality of the treatment process and possible utilisation of the effluents for irrigation. Additionally, regular tests are carried out by the WAJ's laboratory on important indicators.

Dr. Ruad Hashwa of the University of Jordan, who for some time has worked with the RSS research team in his capacity as a microbiologist, said that the effluent of this type of treatment plant is meant to flow into a large river, where it will be diluted considerably. It is not of safe drinking water quality, but it should be safe for the irrigation of flowers, trees, and crops which are not consumed raw. The irrigation techniques should be chosen accordingly — furrow or drip irrigation rather than the use of sprinklers is recommended.

Precautions have to be taken against pathogenic bacteria and viruses, with which, although they should not have survived the treatment and the additional chlorination, the WAJ is not going to take chances and will only allow the irrigation of forage crops and trees with the plant's effluent for the time being.

Whether or not the chlorination is at all necessary or even to be recommended, remains debatable among the experts. Some see it as possibly harmful as the chlorides can combine with organic particles in the effluent to form trihalomethanes, some of which have been found to cause cancer in animals. However, chlorination of effluents is common practice in most treatment plants.

Training course on weed control opens in Deir Alla

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — A three-week training course on combating harmful weeds opened at the University of Jordan's farm at Deir Alla in the central Jordan Valley Sunday. Oregon State University and the Ministry of Agriculture organised the course in cooperation with the University of Jordan to orient agricultural extension service staff from different governorates on modern ways to fight weeds which detrimentally affect agricultural production.

Harmful weeds are responsible for the loss of nearly 10 to 30 per cent of Jordan's total agricultural production every year and also for the poor quality of crops in general, according to Ministry of Agriculture Assistant Under Secretary Muwaffaq Al Saudi, who opened the course, deputising for Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakkhan.

He said that the participants will be oriented on the types of weeds that are harmful to crops and means of combating them.

Tourist guide seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course for tourist guides began at the Hotel Training College in Amman Sunday. A total of 35 trainees are taking part in the three-week course, during which they will hear lectures on local government in Jordan, laws and regulations pertaining to tourism, health, commerce and industry; traditional handicrafts, the duties and responsibilities of a tourist guide, and Jordan's historical and geographical importance.

The participants will also be taken on field trips to archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Khalaf Al Khazoum, from Yarmouk University, which is organising the course in cooperation with the Jordan Tourism Authority (JTA). He said that the course is designed to impart information to the trainees in Jordan's past and modern history which is required to relay to the foreign tourists visiting Jordan.

Mr. Jamil Jaber from the JTA stressed in an opening speech the importance of tourism for Jordan's economy and the duty of guides to encourage the arrival of tourist groups to Jordan. The role of a guide is to convey Jordan's cultural and political messages to the rest of the world, Mr. Jaber said.

The opening session was attended by officials from JTA and Yarmouk University.

Seminar members echo Regent's call for unified Arab technology policy

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on advanced technology concluded Sunday with a call on Arab governments to adopt a pan-Arab unified strategy at the level of decision makers for the acquisition of advanced technology in the service of regional development.

A number of research and working papers were presented by a number of eminent think tank researchers in the Arab World during the seminar, which was patronised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Participants urged Arab governments to support the acquisition of advanced technology, as it represents the basic element for nations to survive the forthcoming century.

They also highlighted the linkage between advanced technology and scientific research which, they said, should be included in all fields of development.

A stress on the promotion of individual capabilities and creative manpower rather than financial funding and raw materials, was echoed throughout the seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

In a working paper presented by researcher Dr. Adel Thabet, the necessity of the acquisition of technology and scientific capabilities instead of importing technology in the form of commodities was emphasised.

In working to achieve this target, there should be efforts to promote individual capabilities in research, application, innovation, scientific development and technology within the framework of the society as a whole. Dr. Thabet told Arab eminent researchers during his presentation.

Dr. Thabet urged the utilisation of advanced technology in the fields of software, biotechnology and genetic engineering, energy, space, seas and new substances.

With regard to software utilisation and informatics, one researcher noted that the Arab World has been successfully dealing with the introduction of facilities in these areas.

Dr. Adnan Shahab Aldeen, president of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, said that informatics are being utilised in Arab airlines and that they have set a record in applying software and hardware dating back to three decades.

However, Dr. Shahab urged a proper linkage between research centres and the production field in the search for the acquisition of advanced technology. Linkage between these two parts of the equation is currently missing, said Dr. Shahab.

He also called for the enhancement of managerial capabilities of research centres in order to arrive at the best results in the acquisition of advanced technology since the management of scientific institutes lacks efficiency.

Moreover, decision making in regard to application of scientific knowledge is largely left to economists, who through the past years have proven unreliable in their assessments of long-term development programmes, said Dr. Shahab.

Another aspect which made the Arab World lag behind the global progress in advanced technology as stated by the researcher was the insufficiency of funds earmarked for scientific research, as it is only

in the region of half per cent of the Arab World Gross National Product (GNP). Dr. Shahab urged Arab governments to increase allocations for scientific research to at least the minimum global standard in order to keep abreast of up-to-the minute additions in advanced technology and to adopt pan-Arab infrastructure in the same field.

According to Dr. Shahab, a certain perspective should be coupled with long-term development programmes in order to boost the acquisition of technology. Such programmes, he continued, should set for themselves defined targets to reach, regardless of the expenses that might be incurred. In other words, Arab governments should take the risk of entering research fields and large industries, namely the government-owned ones, should also contribute to the process by raising more funds for research.

"We usually ask for the best results, and if we failed we never gave ourselves a second chance," although defined targets could be secured regardless of temporary setbacks, Dr. Shahab said.

Following Dr. Shahab's presentation, moderator Isam Aldeen Jalaal supported his remarks and called for bringing about a pan-Arab integration in industry, and warned against duplication of projects amongst Arab states.

Commenting on Dr. Jalaal's statement, Royal Scientific Society President Fakhrudeen Daghestani stressed on pan-Arab cooperation especially in producing and marketing of advanced technology.

Dr. Daghestani, citing Jordan's request for advanced shoulder-launched Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from the U.S., which the latter refused to grant the Kingdom, said Egypt produces anti-aircraft missiles similar to Stinger and with the financial and moral contribution of Arab countries, Egypt's production is bound to be on equal terms with that of the U.S.

Private sector opposition to protectionism is voiced during meeting with trade minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce has voiced the private sector's opposition to the policy of protectionism in principle and demanded that the government should maintain a customs tariff policy instead to help provide incentives for competition and the production of better quality goods, Jordan Television reported on Sunday.

JTV said the chamber's view was presented by Chamber of Commerce President Hamdi Al Tabbaa at a meeting held Sunday with Minister of Industry and

Trade Rajai Al Muasher in the presence of representatives of the commercial sector in Jordan.

JTV quoted Mr. Tabbaa as saying the policy of protectionism has a negative impact on the national economy in general and on the industrial sector in particular. Protectionism tends to rule out any competition among industries, thus removing an important incentive for an improvement in the quality of goods and lower prices for the consumer, Mr. Tabbaa was quoted as saying.

In reply, the minister said that

the government measures were designed both to provide protection to the local industry and to revive the economy.

At the meeting both sides exchanged views about the application of the new government instructions concerning protectionism. They also discussed the recent increase in customs duty on a number of imported foreign products, a few on middlemen and commissioners of trade, and the announcement of sales on products at the end of each season as well as the organisation of trade exhibitions.

'Recognition of Palestinian rights key to peace'

(Continued from page 1)

turn the occupied territories into a consumer's market with 1.5 million consumers who provide cheap labour for Israeli industries.

He said observers of the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, can see an increasing Zionist settlement density and major demographic and geographic changes. This policy, he said, led to the Israeli control of a large percentage of territories amounting to more than half of the West Bank area. This also led to a dangerous drain of natural resources, particularly water resources which is the most important natural resource for the population in the occupied territories, he said.

Prince Hassan referred to statistics indicating that Israeli settlements in the West Bank consume 20 million cubic metres of water a year and the figure is expected to reach 52 million cubic metres by the time these settlements are through with their production plans. "This is a serious threat to the agricultural wealth in the Arab territories," he told the seminar.

Prince Hassan said that Israel receives most of its material support necessary for settlement expansion and economic projects from the United States, "particularly from what is called emergency aid." He pointed out that the total aid received by Israel from the United States since 1973 reached \$31 billion until mid-1985.

"We can see that American-Israeli relations in the last few years have reached an unprecedented level in the history of these relations," Prince Hassan said in his opening speech of the three-day seminar, the first of its kind to be organised in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan said that the recent strategic cooperation agreement and the free trade zone agreement between Israel and the

United States will lead to "an organic link in political, economic and military fields."

Reviewing developments during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Prince Hassan said that King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, despite his awareness of the overwhelming strength of his enemy, did not hesitate one moment to enter the war with his Palestinian brethren. "He was capable, thanks to his courageous forces and his wisdom and foresight to protect a precious part of Palestine — the West Bank of Jordan, from Zionist occupation," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said that as a last attempt in May 1948 to save the region from the tragedies of war, King Abdullah called for the establishment of an Arab kingdom of Jordan and Palestine in which Jewish people would exercise self-government. "But the call for war dominated the thinking of others and it is ironic that the situation has changed today, and the talk is about self-government not for Jewish people but Palestinian Arabs," Prince Hassan said.

Yarmouk University President Dr. Adnan Badran delivered a brief speech at the beginning of the session in which he stressed the importance of studying the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects. He emphasised the need to understand U.S.-Israeli relations which he described as "unprecedented." "Decisions made by Congress and the White House have never been affected by any country as much as they are affected by Israel," Dr. Badran said.

He said that even U.S.-Soviet relations "directly suffer at the expense of Israeli interests." He was referring to the issue of Soviet Jews. "The United States should be more wise in recognising its interests in the region," he said.

Kuwait Minister of Higher Education Hassan Ibrahim spoke at the seminar of the need to encourage studies of the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Israel has 16 centres concerned with studying the Arab World and it is only natural that we establish centres to study those who committed aggression against us and continue to threaten our existence," he said.

Mr. Ibrahim said that Israel takes more from the United States than it offers, while Arabs give the United States more than they take. "Yet America sides with Israel against the Arabs. This is a very serious problem that should be studied."

The conference's first panel on "Israel in the International Arena" was chaired by former U.S. Congressman Paul McCloskey. Mr. McCloskey stressed the important role the Arabs have to play in order to shift U.S. public opinion and eventually the U.S. policy towards the interests of the Arabs.

A basic necessity for all Arabs is "to change American public opinion in order that the U.S. recognises that Arabs are our friends" and that "we (the Americans), should stand for justice of the Palestinians," he said.

PLO leaders meet in Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

11 accord and has urged the PLO leadership to work towards ending all inter-PLO differences and adopt a unified Palestinian stand.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas after his Moscow visit, Mr. Kaddoumi re-

used to disclose the results of his talks with Soviet leader but said efforts were under way to reunify the Palestinian ranks. "The rift in the Palestinian movement is over and efforts are under way to find common denominators among the various Palestinian factions," he told Al Qabas.



A chlorination pond at the WAJ's Khirbet Al Samra sewage treatment plant (photo by Moska Warich)

Farmer's bicycle invention improves seed planting

By Wang Qinghua

A bicycle-mounted seed sower invented by a Chinese peasant is becoming popular with farmers in China because it is effective, inexpensive, easily made and does not consume energy.

Installed under the cross beam of a bicycle, the seed drill performs all of the sowing procedures — furrow digging, seed placement, furrow covering and pressing — almost all at the same time. The device is reported to be four times more efficient than traditional animal-drawn sowing devices widely used in many hilly areas of rural China.

The inventor of the bicycle drill is Chang Xiangbin, 31, a peasant living in Anlu County, Hebei Province, about 320 kilometres south of Peking.

The seed sower is inexpensive, costing only 16 yuan (about \$3.3) to make. The device has proved so popular that Chang has received orders from the local government to serve as a factory to produce the drills. About 10,000 were turned out in the first year and orders are continuing to come in from across the country.

Chang has received growing recognition from government officials, and attended China's first science, technology and trade fair

in Peking last May in order to demonstrate his invention. The seed sower was also recommended by the State Scientific and Technological Commission for display at the Exhibition of Achievements of the World's Young Inventors in Bulgaria.

Chang first conceived of the idea for the device after seeing many bicycles standing idle at the edge of fields during the sowing season.

After 300 experiments during a year and a half, his bicycle drill took its final form last year.

The bicycle drill is considered to be more suitable for peasants who have scattered plots far away from their village.

Peasants in Chang's village have many small pieces of land far away from the village which are unsuitable for sowing by large machines. And skilled barrow operators in the village are scarce.

After realising the extent of the problem, Chang was able to design a practical solution in the shape of his sower.

It works in the following manner:

The triangular-shaped drill is composed of a seed-box, a seed-tube, a furrow opener, a seed-stirring wheel, a transmission shaft and a transmission wheel. All fixed

on a bicycle. When a farmer pushes the bicycle forward, the bicycle's rear wheel powers the drill's rubber transmission wheel, which then turns the steel transmission shaft and the plastic seed-stirring wheel in the plastic seed-box.

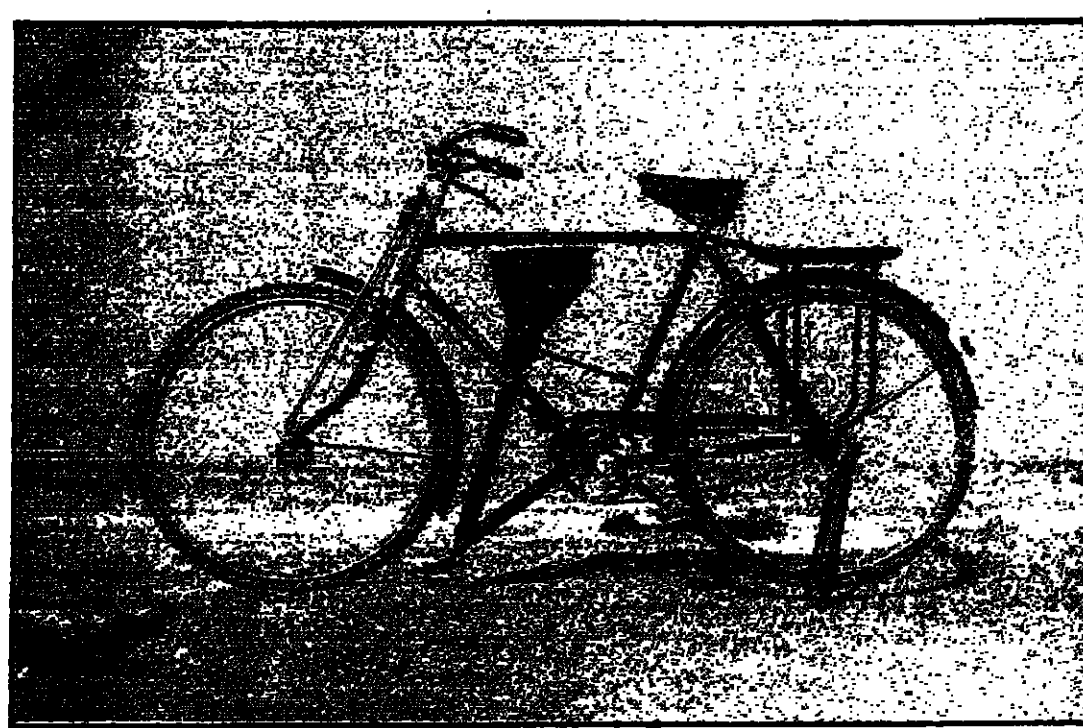
As a result, the seeds in the box drop through the plastic tube into the furrow dug by the small iron plow. After this, the rear wheel of the bicycle covers the furrow with soil and presses it.

In the box is a rubber scraper, placed near the seed-stirring wheel to prevent excessive seeds from going into the tube. The amount of seeds to be sown is controlled by adjusting the gap between the scraper and the seed-stirring wheel.

Different seeds require different seed-stirring wheels with holes varying in size and number. Five types of the wheels have been designed for sowing wheat, cotton, corn, millet and soybeans.

The furrow opener is fixed with an iron ring at the lower end of the seed-tube. By loosening the ring, the small plow can be moved up and down to adjust the sowing depth.

The drill, pushed manually through the fields, sows seeds in the same depth and immediately covers them with soil. This helps preserve soil moisture and promotes



seedling growth, particularly in the case of sesame and cotton seeds, whose seedlings have more difficulty coming out the soil.

When maize is sown, the drill saves 30 per cent of seeds, compared with the wooden barrow.

The bicycle-drill also can be used to apply chemical fertilizer to

seedlings. It does not harm young plants because the digging of fertilizer furrows follows exactly the track of the bicycle's front wheel piloted by the operator. The fertilizer does not easily run away because the furrows are covered immediately by the rear tire.

And Chang's invention has one more practical feature appreciated by the farmers. After sowing, the farmer can move the plow up into the tube, separate the drill's transmission wheel from the bicycle's rear wheel by loosening the screws on the transmission shaft, and ride the bicycle home — China features.

Many of world's big cities have that sinking feeling

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — London is sinking. So are Tokyo, Bangkok, Shanghai, Houston, New Orleans, and even the lush Mexican City and Las Vegas.

More than a dozen of the world's great cities are slowly sinking into the lands on which they were built, some at worrisome rates, dropping as much as a foot a year.

Most are sagging not under their own weight, but because so much groundwater has been pumped out from under them. Most are located in coastal areas, sitting on soft sand, silt, or clay, the kind of soil that easily compacts when large volumes of water are withdrawn.

Compounding the sinking situation is the global rise in sea levels, up to a foot or more a century, which raises the risk of flooding for some cities.

Worsening problem

Although cities have been sinking for centuries, the problem has worsened in the past 40 years, according to geologists Robert Dolan and Grant Goodell of the University of Virginia's environmental sciences department. The unprecedented demand for water for people and industry has tapped the cheapest source: the ground beneath our feet.

When cities sink, buildings crack or drop unevenly, and streets and sidewalks buckle. "People used to live with it. As structures sank, they'd build on top of them or move away," Dolan says. "There's an ancient church in Italy's Po Valley that has three sets of columns. The first set is now in the basement under water."

"But modern life complicates matters. New construction is expensive, land values are high. Sub-

ways, sewers, and often utility lines are underground, so you can't afford sudden variations in land levels. Also, over the centuries, many structures have become historical treasures and can't be moved from their threatened positions."

Venice, a classic case of a city already partially submerged by the sea, increased its rate of sinking tenfold between 1950 and 1970 by withdrawing groundwater at a time of sea-level rise. As a result, the chemical pollution in the Venetian lagoon has become a serious threat, decaying the base of buildings.

London's renowned Big Ben tower, now under repair, was cracked and leaning about 18 inches because the city has been sinking along the Thames, about a foot a century.

The \$1 billion Thames Barrier, completed last year, is designed to control storm surge from the English Channel and prevent London's vital subway system from flooding. Because of the continued sinking of the city, the barrier, 10 movable gates built side-by-side across the river, is estimated to be effective for about 100 years.

Step off the curb in Mexico City, and you may step down more than a foot in some places. The world's largest metropolis, built 7,347 feet up on a lake bed, is a rare example of an inland sinking city. It drops as much as 10 inches a year. "The big problem is that the land does not all go down together," Dolan says. "This differential subsidence has sunk some buildings a few feet and some from 18 to 25 feet."

Ascending angel

The famous El Angel monument, erected in 1910 for Mexico's centennial of independence, appears to be ascending into the

sky as the buildings and streets around it sink. Every few years, a new stair step has to be added to its pedestal. El Angel itself, like other structures in the city, rests on pilings set deep in solid ground.

The entire Thai capital of Bangkok is in danger of falling below sea level by the year 2000. The water table that keeps the city afloat has dropped severely because of some 11,000 wells needed for drinking water. Bangkok has sunk nearly three feet in the past 30 years, and recently that rate has accelerated in some sections of the city.

A number of U.S. cities from Savannah, Ga., to Long Beach, Calif., are in various states of depression. Some are slight, such as Las Vegas, which is being pulled down because the enormous weight of the water trapped in Lake Mead by Hoover Dam is depressing the earth's crust. Two of the worst cases are Houston and New Orleans.

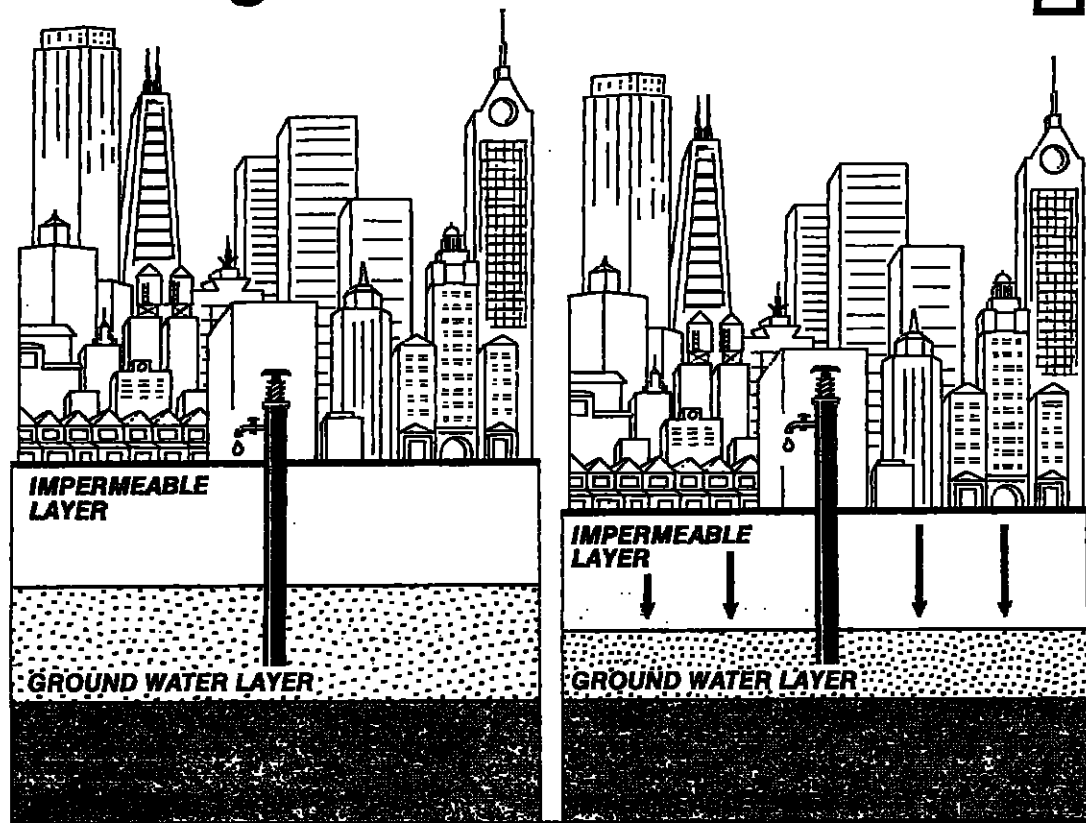
"Houston is a textbook case of man's impact on the environment," Dolan says. "Low coastal area, soft sediments (clay and sand), rapid industrialization, explosive population and urbanization, and the dredging of a big ship channel."

As a result of its Texas-size thirst for groundwater, the nation's fourth-largest city has sunk four feet in the past 80 years, and its western section is expected to sink four feet in the next 20 years. To the east, whole neighborhoods in the Baytown area along the Houston Ship Channel have been abandoned to Galveston Bay.

"Sinking is an almost inevitable consequence of industrial expansion," Goodell says. Ironically, development occurs where groundwater is available and cheap. New Orleans is so soggy that millions of gallons of seep water

Sinking Cities

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More than a dozen of the world's great cities, from London to Tokyo, Houston to Bangkok are slowly sinking into the lands on which they were built.

When too much of the water needed for urban development is pumped from the ground beneath, pressure within the soil decreases and the ground water layer compacts.

must be drained from it each day. About 45 per cent of the city is at or below sea level. The Superdome is supported by 2,266 concrete piles driven down more than 150 feet. Unlike Houston, New Orleans is sinking from long-term natural subsidence.

"No one sat around a conference table some 260 years ago and discussed the variables in developing the site," Dolan says. "Now we have to defend it and save it."

Defensive measures

Almost all sinking cities have taken some steps to control groundwater withdrawals, and a number also have constructed enormous engineering works to do everything from lessening the threat of flooding to prop up sagging and leaning buildings.

But even in cities where sinking has been slowed or stopped, there has been almost no recovery in ground elevation. The two geologists have discovered.

Additionally at risk today, Goodell says, are developing Third World cities, such as Bangladesh's capital, Dacca, that cannot afford the cost of long-distance water.

"One of the greatest engineering and social challenges of the next century will be how to save sinking cities," he says. The staggering solutions range from raising the cities by filling soil behind dikes to packing up and moving them to higher ground.

Soviet media debate merits of reporting the bad news

By Charles Bremner
Reuters

MOSCOW — Two Soviet newspapers are taking criticism from the new Kremlin leadership to heart, publishing complaints that the official press tries to hide the truth.

One striking letter in the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya this month said: "They must have the courage to tell people about unexpected or negative events."

The letters, also published by the government daily Izvestiya, were the latest evidence of a debate on how much the tightly-controlled media should report.

They reflect a campaign by the new leader Mikhail Gorbachev for more openness from the country's administrators and more frank

reporting from the press. Though strictly orthodox in his commitment to the one-party state, Gorbachev has made clear he thinks the public can be trusted with more information.

He has set the example by allowing himself to be seen facing questions from foreign reporters on sensitive topics and allowing President Reagan to set out his views in a new year message on state television.

Unlike news media in the West, the Soviet press and broadcasting system have the primary task of promoting support for the Communist Party and loyalty to the state.

To this end, "bad" news affecting the Soviet Union or its allies is rarely reported, leading people to glean information from foreign

radio broadcasts and a thriving rumour mill. The rule affects disasters like fires and plane crashes.

One letter in Sovetskaya Rossiya compared the heavy publicity given by the state media to the recent Mexican earthquake and Colombian volcano disaster with their near silence on a killer quake in Soviet Central Asia.

"Such silence gives me the impression that it is based on nothing but lack of faith in readers and viewers — as if they might somehow misunderstand," the letter writer said.

A letter in Izvestiya complained that the newspaper had failed to report on a rash of deaths through poisoning by illicit alcohol in Moscow in November.

"They talk about openness as a sign of trust in the people, and in

practice... they keep many things secret."

Other letters pointed at attempts to hush up failings in the Soviet economy and to over-praise dubious achievements.

"Things do not get better with loud reports and the beating of drums," said one letter in Sovetskaya Rossiya, a party newspaper which has led the drive for more open reporting.

Late last year it also led a campaign against the Moscow city administration, implicating the city party boss, Viktor Grishin, and its mayor, Vladimir Proklov.

Both men lost their jobs. Though Grishin was widely seen as likely to be removed by the new leadership, it was highly unusual for a member of the Kremlin's rul-

ing politburo to come under fire, even indirectly, in the press.

The state media have for some time acted as policemen, exposing incompetence and dishonesty among the lower levels of officialdom.

The most authoritative newspaper, Pravda, set out the argument in an editorial last month accusing the rest of the press of boring and repetitive reporting that left readers sceptical and indifferent.

Pravda said the media should stop being dull and inspire the people to greater heights.

But Pravda and the rest of the state media showed the limits to openness by failing to report all but the least controversial sections of a speech on the same theme by poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Addressing an official writers' congress in Moscow in December, Yevtushenko blasted newspaper editors and book publishers for lying, distorting the facts and complacency.

Echoing Gorbachev's calls he said: "Articles rhetorically calling for openness are not the same as openness itself."

Like other commentators on the theme, he said honest reporting was needed to defend the Soviet system against attack from its enemies who concocted anti-Soviet news "from things that we hide and hush up."

A nation that allows itself to analyse its own mistakes and tragedies "bravely knocks the ideological weapon out of its enemies' hands," he said.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Made in Jordan

CARNATIONS, gladiolas, lilliums and roses are nowadays the only available flowers in Jordan since the government decision to ban the import of flowers.

Why not? The advantage for the buyer is that the bills are much more reasonable. I asked a few flower shops in Amman: what is the highest price for a normal size basket of flowers. Their answer was that it varies between JD 15 to 20. The reason is of course that orchids, birds of paradise and other rare specimen of imported flowers are not available anymore. But the problem is that with the limited choice and quantity of flowers available, the prices fluctuate like in a stock market. Some farms, which are now growing flowers, decide their own prices. Flower shops too, could raise their prices to thirty per cent on a day when, say, roses are not available, and so on.

Roses are now sold at 500 to 600 fils each. But two weeks ago, for some reason they went up to 800 fils each. Carnations are worth 350 fils each, but on cold days you may be asked to pay more.

As for the greenery, it is simply inexistent. One day I asked the flower shop assistant to put some green with my bouquet of roses, he went out of the shop and cut some branches from the tree on the pavement. "That's the best I can do, we don't have green leaves anymore," he said.

This is absurd. If we were able in a relative short time to grow several kinds of flowers, we can certainly find a way of growing the greenery that goes it.

All it takes is some organisation and planning.

Film of Arab-Israeli Romeo and Juliet disturbs both sides

By Bernard Edinger
Reuters

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A film of the Romeo and Juliet story set in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict has resulted in rare agreement between Arabs and Jews: Neither like it.

"A very Narrow Bridge," by Israeli director Nissim Dayan, recounts the love of an Israeli officer and a young Arab widow in this centre of Palestinian nationalism in the Israeli occupied West Bank.

When filming took place in Ramallah some residents took advantage of a scene where demonstrators throw stones at the hero to hurl rocks at the camera crew.

In the film, Israeli lawyer Benny Taggar meets beautiful Palestinian schoolteacher Leila Mansoor when Taggar, on army reserve duty in Ramallah, storms into Mansoor's school after students stone his car.

Taggar is smitten by the fiery-eyed Palestinian, played by Israeli-Arab Salwa Nakkara Hadad, who stands up to him when he breaks into her office.

The lawyer, portrayed by Israeli actor Aharon Ipale, pursues and finally wins the widow, creating scandal among townspeople and occupation forces alike.

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet tells the story of two young lovers from warring clans who defy their families to meet.

The Israeli film, while touching the same subject, has so far failed to match Shakespeare's popularity, though it has been playing in one Tel Aviv cinema for nearly two months.

"Israelis feel the subject is too close to unpleasant realities and it disturbs them," said director

Dayan. An international premiere is, however, planned for Paris.

The Israeli press Arabic newspapers published in east Jerusalem generally gave it a cool reception. The East Jerusalem weekly Al Awdah said the film "stretches the bounds of credibility to their limits."

Israel's English-language daily, the Jerusalem Post, had mixed feelings about it but credited Dayan with "making a valiant effort to make a serious statement about Israeli-Arab relations."

Two men — one Jewish, one Arab — who as teenagers belonged to clandestine groups on either side of the Arab-Israeli divide said the film's love affair could never take place in reality.

"I live in Ramallah and can tell you that no Palestinian woman, even if she did not care that we live under Israeli occupation, would dare go out with an Israeli soldier," said Sami Al Aboudi, who served a year's prison term for membership of the Palestinian Fatah organisation 10 years ago.

He thinks "Bridge" depicts Palestinians as primitive and violent. The film will strengthen stereotypes about "terrorists" which were applied to him when he was 17, says Al Aboudi, who is now news editor of the English-language weekly Al Fajr.

But Gil Kessary, also a journalist, working for the Hebrew daily Maariv, feels the film is harsh on Israelis and kind to Palestinians. Kessary belonged to the Irgun underground seeking to end the British mandate over Palestine in 1948, when he was 17.

Al Aboudi says: "The film is dangerous politically but I must admit it is well done technically. At the end, one suffers with the lovers and fears for them."

Was 'King Kong' murdered?

By Paul Verschuur
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Did "King Kong" commit suicide, as the government maintains, or was he murdered?

Belinde Thoenne, who worked with the suspected double agent in the Dutch resistance during World War II, told the Associated Press that she believes he was killed.

Ms. Thoenne has asked a court to make the government release secret files on King Kong, whose real name was Christian Lindemann, so she can investigate his death. The suit was filed by the Haarlems Dagblad newspaper under the Dutch open government law.

On Dec. 2, the Council of State rejected the Dutch domestic security service claim that disclosure of any of its files would harm national security, and gave the agency six weeks to specify in detail why the dossier on King Kong cannot be made public.

The council is the nation's highest authority on government procedures.

Lindemann reportedly drew the nickname King Kong because of his stocky build. A Rotterdam auto mechanic, he joined the Dutch resistance, which fought the 1940-45 German occupation of the Netherlands.

Lindemann has been credited with setting up an escape route for Jews and downed allied flyers. But he reportedly turned traitor and, in 1944 gave vital information to German contacts.

The official wartime history, "The Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Second World War," says Lindemann gave the Nazis allied plans for Operation Market Garden.

Market Garden was intended to liberate the Netherlands and invade Germany, but the operation stalled in September 1944 at the eastern Dutch city of Arnhem. Allied paratroopers encountered unexpectedly heavy resistance

and were unable to cross the Rhine into Germany.

Lindemann reportedly obtained his information from the headquarters of Prince Bernhard, commander-in-chief of Dutch forces.

However, the authoritative history, compiled by Lou de Jong, says the Germans did not take Lindemann's information seriously.

Lindemann was arrested at the end of the war for espionage. The official record says that before he could be tried, he committed suicide in a Dutch prison in 1946 by taking an overdose of drugs.

But Ms. Thoenne said she believes he was murdered.

Ms. Thoenne said she worked with Lindemann in setting up the wartime escape route, but claimed he betrayed 100-150 Dutch resistance fighters, most of whom were sent to Nazi concentration camps.

She offered no evidence to back her claim that Lindemann was murdered, but said he "was not the type" to commit suicide.

Willem Tiemens, an author who has specialised in the Lindemann case, is pursuing the theory that he was helped to escape prison and might still be alive.

Tiemens told the AP that Lindemann's close contact with Prince Bernhard's headquarters had made him a potential embarrassment to the Dutch and British military commands.

Tiemens, who has written extensively on the battle of Arnhem, said his examination of prison and hospital records made the official version of Lindemann's supposed death "just one unlikely thing after another."

The current legal case began in September, when Internal Affairs Minister Koos Rijkers, whose ministry oversees secret service operations, rejected the newspaper's request for the King Kong file.

Graham Greene at 81, back in Latin America for a new novel

By Matthew Campbell
Reuters

MANAGUA — In the lush, volcanic terrain of Nicaragua, Graham Greene samples tropical revolution and searches for an idea that will pay him over 10 years work.

The idea has to be a good one this time, one which will allow him to ditch his current novel, a non-political work with the projected title of "The Captain and the Enemy."

He has already given it up twice. "I have no confidence in it," he told Reuters in an interview.

"I'm doing it very, very slowly and hoping that a real idea will

come and I'll be able to abandon it for the third time."

Greene, 81, one of the world's foremost living authors, is back in a part of the world he loves best, Central America.

He is making a short trip to Nicaragua, a country run by Marxist-inspired Sandinistas who, almost ever since the triumph of their 1979 revolution, have been accused by the United States for exporting Communism and causing tension in the region.

Greene has little time for the accusations. "I'm interested, very interested in Nicaragua," he said, shortly after attending a religious celebration in the old university town of Leon.

Sitting by the poolside at Man-

agua's Intercontinental Hotel in white shirt and blue trousers, Greene gestured with freckled hands as the talk ranged from Nicaragua to British defector Kim Philby and former Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos.

Tall and silver-haired, Greene generally approves of the Sandinista political system.

"I think there is a respect for differences of opinion in Nicaragua (and) a respect for religion," he said.

He is critical of President Reagan's support for guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas, but adds: "I'm not a Communist. I'd like to see, as I think Omar Torrijos wanted to see, a social democratic Central

America."

Greene has frequently used Latin American countries as settings for his books.

Religion is a dominant theme in his work but he refuses to be thought of as a Catholic novelist. "I am a novelist who happens to be a Catholic," he said.

Asked what he thought of the Roman Catholic hierarchy's criticism of the Nicaraguan government, he said: "I hate it."

Pope John Paul has not disguised his distaste at the participation of Catholic priests in the Sandinista government or at its support for Liberation Theology which sees no contradiction between Marxism and Christianity. Liberation Theology, Greene

argued, was "a natural growth of the Gospels."

Referring to the Vatican as "the politburo" of the Roman Catholic Church, he said Pope John Paul was "the most political Pope we have seen in a long time."

"I see no logic in the fact that he is a political Pope and yet refuses to let priests be political priests."

Talking of his work, Greene believes The Honorary Consul, set in Argentina, is the best novel he ever wrote, because the two main characters "change in the course of the book."

When not travelling, he leads a quiet life in Antibes in the south of France. He lives in a two-bedroomed flat overlooking the port, with a French woman, a

Boniek, Pruzzo goals lift Roma

ROME (R) — Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek scored one goal and set up another to spur Roma to a 2-0 win at Udinese in the Italian first division Sunday.

The result lifted Roma into second place behind Juventus, who dropped their first home point of the season to a tenacious Como side.

The flame-haired Pole ran the length of the Udinese half and stepped over a desperate lunge by goalkeeper Fabio Briati to put Roma ahead in the first half.

After the resumption he sent striker Roberto Pruzzo clear to seal the points.

Como extended their unbeaten run under new manager Rino Marchetti to seven games with an unexpected 0-0 draw at Juventus.

The league leaders went close through Gabriele Pin in the first half but a 35,000 home crowd whistled their disapproval as Juventus lost pace and were forced back into defence by Como, whose point lifted them to fourth from the bottom of the table.

Despite a near miss by Diego Maradona in the ninth minute and constant first-half pressure, Napoli suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat by visiting Pisa.

The defeat left Napoli in third place, one point behind Roma and seven adrift of Juventus.

Dane Klaus Berggreen scored

the winner for Pisa, on a day which brought the unusual statistic of four away wins against only one home victory in the eight-match programme.

Atalanta, humiliated 4-0 by Roma last Sunday, pulled off one of the surprise results by beating Internazionale 3-1 at the San Siro stadium, at one point leading the home side by three goals.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge converted a late penalty which lifted him to equal leading goalscorer with Aldo Serena of Juventus, but Inter manager Mario Corso must act quickly to restore morale before the team faces Nantes of France in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in March.

Corso, faced with internal discipline problems, had placed sto-

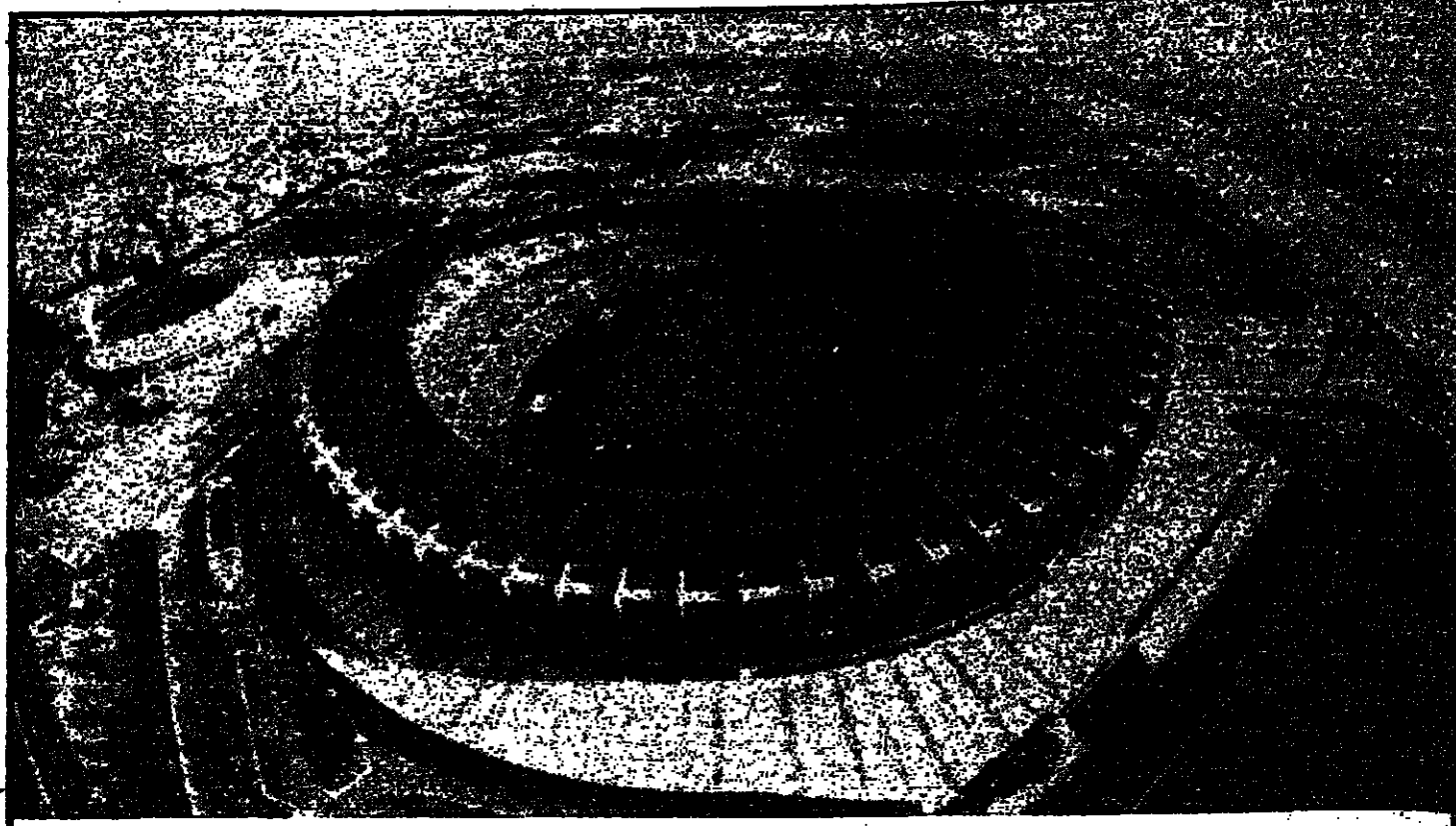
pper Fulvio Collovati on the substitutes' bench and also rested Irish midfielder Liam Brady for the Atalanta game.

Newly promoted but struggling Lecce missed a penalty in each half and finally allowed AC Milan to walk off with both points.

Pietro Paolo Virdis put the visitors ahead with a penalty after first Franco Causio then Argentine Juan Alberto Barbas had missed Lecce's spot kicks.

England striker Mark Hateley made it 2-0 with a thundering right foot shot in the 76th minute.

Giuseppe Galderisi, whose goals helped Verona win the championship last season, returned to form with two strikes in their 2-0 home win over Avellino.



Seoul stadium in S. Korea which will host the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics (File photo)

Liverpool wins to stay in title hunt

LONDON (Agencies) — Former England striker Paul Walsh scored twice and Ian Rush scored once as Liverpool won 3-2 at Watford to move back to third in the English soccer first division.

Walsh, discarded by England manager Bobby Robson in 1984, scored once in each half to steer Liverpool to victory after Watford had taken an early lead through Welsh midfielder Kenny Jackett.

Walsh equalised with a opportunist shot from 15 metres shortly before halftime and Rush put Liverpool ahead with a rasping drive on the turn midway through the second half.

With only 14 minutes remaining, Walsh took advantage of a disastrous back pass to make it 3-1, but Watford replied in the dying minutes when Jan Lohman

tapped the ball home after a blunder by Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

The victory lifted Liverpool to 50 points, level with city rivals Everton and London challengers Chelsea. All are five points behind leaders Manchester United.

Manchester manager fights to keep star striker

Meanwhile, Manchester United soccer manager Ron Atkinson says he will fight to keep Welsh international Mark Hughes at the club, despite press reports that the exiting striker is set to move to Barcelona for a staggering £2 million (\$2.9 million), the biggest transfer deal in English soccer history.

Hughes showed his class in sco-

ring a sensational goal in United's 3-1 league win at Oxford on Saturday and Atkinson admitted afterwards that the 22-year-old star had an option in his new, five-year contract, allowing him to sign for a foreign club.

But the United manager insisted: "Nothing will happen until the last ball has been kicked this season and we have to live in hope that the lad will stay with us."

"The continental clubs can make players millionaires but at United, we also look after our players well and maybe we can do enough to persuade him to stay," he added.

Atkinson said Hughes' goal at Oxford showed how the player, arguably the most skilful and versatile forward in the country, had handled the morning's spectacular

transfer reports. "I thought the speculation might have got to him but he is level-headed and his performance showed it had not affected him at all," he said.

The United manager would not discuss the situation further. "I am putting an embargo on all talk until the summer when it will happen if it is going to. We are not having any distractions now," he said, referring to his team's five-point lead at the top of the English first division.

Three tabloid national newspapers said Hughes, scorer of 13 goals this season, would be sold to Spanish champions Barcelona, one of the biggest soccer clubs in the world and currently managed by Englishman Terry Venables.

Matthews steers Australia to surprise cricket cup win

BRISBANE (R) — Greg Matthews underlined his growing reputation as one of Australia's most improved batsmen by guiding his country to a surprise world series cup one-day cricket win over India Sunday.

Australia, needing 162 in 50 overs, were 48 for five when Matthews came in and decisively tilted

the balance with an unbeaten 46 that clinched victory at 164 for six with 22 deliveries to spare.

All-rounder Matthews, whose defiant batting was one of Australia's rare highlights in the recent tests against New Zealand and India, took the man-of-the-match award after sealing his team's success in their first game.

Peete kicks off PGA tour with record-breaking victory

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — Calvin Peete, who came to La Costa seeking to redeem himself, kicked off the 1986 PGA tour with a front-running, record-breaking, six-stroke victory Saturday in Moby Tournament of Champions.

Peete, the tour's most prolific winner in the last four years, acquired his 11th triumph of his late-starting career with a closing round of 68 and a 267 total.

"I wanted to redeem myself," said Peete, who was disqualified and later fined after taking an undetermined number of strokes, several on a moving ball, on the fifth hole of the first round of this event a year ago.

Peete gave the fans the best four rounds — 68-67-64 and 68 — since the old tournament, which brings together only the winners of PGA tour titles, came to the La Costa country club from Las Vegas in 1969.

His four rounds added up to a 21-under-par total, breaking the tournament scoring record of 268 set by Jerry Barber in Las Vegas in 1960. It's six strokes better than the La Costa scoring record set by Frank Beard in 1971.

Peete, 43, now the winner of 10 titles since the start of the 1982 season — the best record on the American tour — led or shared the lead all the way.

He led by three shots over Mark O'Meara starting the final round — by eight over the rest of the pack — and never gave them a chance.

After five holes of play in bright, warm sunshine, his leading margin was five strokes.

"He just didn't make any mistakes; Never opened the door a

crack," said O'Meara, the only man with any hope of overtaking Peete.

Those hopes vanished when Peete birdied three of four holes starting on the 10th.

The victory was worth \$90,000 to Peete, who did not join the pro golf circuit until he was 32. O'Meara, who had putting difficulties, scored a hard-won 71 over the final 18 holes and took second alone at 273. He collected \$57,000.

Towering Phil Blackmar was third at 69-277.

Scott Verplank, 21, winner of the Western Open last year said the first amateur to play in the 34-year history of this tournament matched par 72 and tied for fourth at 279.

Also at that figure were Danny Edwards, who had a 71, and Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany, with a closing 70.

Sandy Lyle of Scotland, the British Open champion, matched par 72 and had a 285 total.

U.S. Open titleholder Andy North was 74-287. And PGA champ Hubert Green finished last in the field of 31 at 78-306. Defending titleholder Tom Kite slipped to a 75 and finished at 283.

In the separate but concurrent tournament from 1985 winners from the seniors tour, trayear-old Miller Barber scored a five-stroke victory over Arnold Palmer.

Barber collected \$30,000 after a closing round of par 72 and a 282 total. It was the 19th victory on the seniors tour and the 30th of his career.

Palmer was second at 72-287, with Lee Elder next at 72-288.

Paris-Saint-Germain record unbeaten run goes on

PARIS (R) — Paris-Saint-Germain (PSG) sustained their record unbeaten run in the French soccer league when they hit back to draw 1-1 at Brest and maintain a six-point lead over Nantes and Bordeaux Saturday.

A second-half header by PSG captain and international midfielder Luis Fernandez levelled the score after lowly-placed Brest grabbed the lead in the 15th minute through a daring volley by Patrick Bouquet.

It was PSG's 25th game without defeat since the start of the season, a feat never achieved before in French soccer.

The first division leaders, who badly missed the striking power of international Dominique Rocheteau, the league's top scorer with 15 goals, appeared uninspired up front but controlled most of the game thanks to their powerful midfield.

League champions Bordeaux struggled at home to beat bottom-of-the-table Strasbourg. Former West German international Uwe Reinders scored Bordeaux's only goal in the first half from the penalty spot.

Nantes, France's only survivors in European competitions, survived a tough challenge from a tenacious Laval team to score a well-earned goalless away draw.

Tubbs defends heavyweight championship on Friday

ATLANTA, Georgia (AP) — Tony Tubbs makes his first defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight championship on Friday, Jan. 17, when he fights former World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Tim Witherspoon.

Although the 26-year-old Tubbs has been called a dull fighter, he says Witherspoon's style will make the scheduled 15-round bout an action fight.

"He's got to come forward," Tubbs said of the aggressive Witherspoon. "That will bring the best out of me. This fight will bear me out. A win over Tim Witherspoon will make the public aware there is a top heavyweight on the horizon."

Tubbs has heard the talk that he's a dull fighter. But he knows he's 22-0 in pro fights and has 15 knockouts, that he's the WBA heavyweight champion and that he got there by being a counterpuncher with quick hands and quick feet, belting his 104 kilogram bulk.

Tubbs also knows that winning is the goal, looking impressive is gravy, often rich gravy, and that it takes two to Tango.

"Greg Page and I tried to counterpunch each other," said Tubbs, who won the title on a unanimous decision in a dull 15-round fight April 29 at Buffalo, New York.

"Tubbs isn't about to change his style — counterpunching is one of the skills of boxing. You know,

boxers last longer than sluggers." A champion describing himself as a fighter on the horizon is unusual, but Tubbs has found himself a champion in a period when boxing's traditionally brightest division is in the shadows.

He shares the heavyweight title with Pinklon Thomas, who is recognised as champion by the WBC, and Michael Spinks, the International Boxing Federation champion who probably is the no. 1 heavyweight in the eyes of the public because of his upset decision win over previously unbeaten Larry Holmes.

"I don't think no other champion would have fought Tim Witherspoon for his first defence," said Tubbs.

It is a risk. Witherspoon lost a 12-round split decision to Holmes in a WBC title bid May 20, 1983 and won the vacant WBC title with a 12-round unanimous decision over Page on March 9, 1984, before losing it on a 12-round unanimous decision to Thomas on Aug. 31, 1984.

"In order to be the best, you've got to beat the best," said Tubbs, who realises winning is not enough, that who you beat also figures into the game when it comes to the bottom line — money.

"I want to fight them all," he said. "I think I can match skills with anyone."

The value of the purse had not been announced a week before the fight but was expected to approach \$1 million.

Lendl pounds Connors in \$500,000 challenge

ATLANTA (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia overwhelmed Jimmy Connors of the U.S. 6-2, 6-3, Saturday in the final of a \$500,000 challenge tournament.

Top prize for the eight-man, round-robin event was \$150,000. Connors collected the runner-up check for \$100,000.

Lendl dominated the entire match, recording 13 aces and four service breaks in a straight-set victory that took one and one-half hours. He broke Connors in the fifth and seventh games of the first set.

In the sixth game, he served three aces in a row and closed out the first set with two aces in the last game.

The second set, which took 50 minutes, was even until the seventh game when Lendl broke Connors after he served his third doublefault of the match.

Connors could not return Lendl's powerful serve effectively and scored several unforced errors on forehand and backhand returns.

Lendl rarely approached the net, winning points easily from the baseline with blistering groundstrokes.

"I was very pleased with the way I played this week," Lendl said following the match. "But don't get carried away with the serves because the balls were fast and especially in my match with Noah (Yannick) (on Thursday), it was impossible to return serve."

Navratilova, Kohde-Kilsch reach

Washington tennis semifinals

Meanwhile, Martina Navratilova swept aside compatriot American Zina Garrison with a 6-1, 6-2 victory in the quarterfinals Saturday of the \$150,000 women's tennis tournament in Washington.

She will face West Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, who defeated compatriot Bettina Bunge 6-4, 7-5 Saturday.

In winning, Navratilova repeated her 6-1, 6-2 trouncing of Garrison in last year's semifinal.

In their 12 meetings to date, Garrison has failed to win even a set against the world's number-one ranked woman's tennis player.

"She's a lot more aggressive than she used to be though," Navratilova said. "But I have something over her in every department. She can't really hurt me with anything because I beat her to the net, my volleys are more powerful, I'm quicker than she is. I don't feel she can overpower me, although her serve has gotten better," she said.

It was a comprehensive defeat for Garrison, who lost in only 58 minutes. She failed to hold serve until she was set and 5-1 down, and by then it was too late to stage any sort of revival.

"I kept trying to put a lot of pressure on her, but she hit a lot of great backhands," Garrison said.

"I didn't serve that bad, although I could have mixed it up a little more. I didn't even play that bad. I think everything's there if my volleys had been a lot stronger I'd have been in there."

Even though I volleyed to the right spot, she'd just run them down," said the fifth seed.

The remaining quarter final between friends and former doubles partners, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded third, and the unseeded Bettina Bunge was a scrappy affair with neither playing

anywhere near their potential.

Bunge blamed her part in a disappointing match on her battle Friday night when she ousted American Kathy Rinaldi.

"I gave that match all I had, and I was just drained today," she said. "I couldn't believe that I couldn't take advantage of her playing so badly, but I played even worse."

Kohde-Kilsch, who is also through to the doubles semifinals with Czechoslovakian partner Helena Sukova, had found it difficult to settle into the game.

2-week African soccer tourney begins in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Tanzania's Young Africans beat Kampala City Council of Uganda 1-0 Saturday in the opening match here of the east and central African soccer club championship.

In another opening match, in the town of Mwanza on Lake Victoria, defending champion Gor Mahia of Kenya and Sudan's Al Merikh drew 1-1.

The Conference of East and Central African Football Associations split the 10-team field into two groups, with Group A playing in Dar Es Salaam and Group B in Mwanza.

The two-week competition ends Jan. 26. In Dar Es Salaam, Young Africans centre forward Abed Mziba scored the only goal in the 70th minute.

In Mwanza, Al Merikh outside right Ibrahim Mohammad Al Haq scored in the 33rd minute. Gor Mahia tied the game in the 86th minute on a goal by left halfback Abbas Magongo.

Other teams in Group A are Small Simba of Zanzibar, AFC Leopards of Kenya and Silver Strikers of Malawi. The rest of the field in Group B consists of Mfulira Wanderers of Zambia, Wagad of Somalia and Maji Maji, the 1985 Tanzania national league champion.

The semifinals are to be held Jan. 22 in Mwanza and Dar Es Salaam and the final on Jan. 26 in Dar Es Salaam. Gor Mahia won the 1985 championship in Sudan.

The annual competition began in 1974, with Tanzania hosting the first tourney.

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Fears of future trends temper coffee producers' cash bonanza

ABIDJAN (R) — Coffee exporters' expectations of a cash bonanza following the recent surge of world prices are tempered by fears for the future of the international coffee pact and worries the market could collapse in the longer term.

Most delegates to a meeting here last week of the 25-member Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) said they did not believe the rise in the world coffee price to its highest level for over eight years had ended.

But IACO Chairman Denis B. Kapon pointed out at a news conference that while firm prices would boost revenues of many African countries, exporters' long-term interests would not be served if the international coffee agreement collapsed.

The current agreement, which dates from 1983, has been one of the most successful international commodity pacts and before the meeting had generally managed to keep world prices within or near to its target range of 120 to 140 cents per pound.

The pact, to which most of the world's major producers and consumers belong, functions by controlling coffee bean supplies via a system of export quotas.

But a severe drought in Brazil, the world's leading producer, has set prices soaring and the 15-day average price calculated by the London-based International Coffee Organisation (ICO), which administers the pact, was quoted at 207 cents.

Under ICO rules, quotas are due to be suspended entirely on

Feb. 17.

Brazil has estimated its 1986/87 crop, for which harvesting begins in May, at 16.7 million 60-kilogramme bags, down from 29.6 million for the previous season.

The inevitable price impact of a lower Brazilian crop forecast has been fuelled by speculators, who traditionally prefer a rising market, purchasing large numbers of contracts on international coffee futures markets.

The prospect of a further rise guarantees bumper returns in the weeks ahead for African exporters, notably those with large stocks, and for Colombia, the world's number two producer.

"Whoever has stocks of coffee right now is sitting on a goldmine," said one delegate.

The East African state of Kenya, which has sizeable stocks of good quality Arabica beans — the type of coffee worst hit by the Brazilian drought — is especially likely to benefit.

Kenyan Agriculture Minister William Odongo Omaso was quoted as saying in a Kenyan daily Saturday that his country would maximise coffee returns this month and next and would no longer distinguish between ICO quota and non-quota markets.

Sales of deary-priced coffee will reduce storage costs and provide cash to enable some of the world's poorest countries to finance development plans, analysts say.

Nearly all the export revenues of the Central African states of

Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda come from coffee, while in the case of other producers, a firm coffee market will help to offset depressed prices for most other Third World commodities.

But this rosy outlook is soured by memories of the way coffee prices soared in 1976/77 due to frost in Brazil, only to slump dramatically in the following few years.

Mr. Bra Kanon said volatile prices were not in the interest of either exporters or importers and the IACO recommended that ICO market control measures, such as provision of certificates of origin, stay in place after quota suspension to allow the immediate restoration of quotas when prices fall.

The delegates, however, pointed out that doubts over the accord's future had emerged before the latest price surge.

The United States, the world's biggest coffee consumer, last year threatened to pull out of the pact after failing to get penalties for exporters' under-shipments linked to sales to non-ICO members.

Ironically cut-price sales to non-members, which last year undermined the quota system, have now ended as coffee that would normally be sold to non-members has been diverted to stores in free ports in anticipation of quota suspension.

But some delegates said that the latest market trends could persuade the free-market Reagan administration to withdraw.

An agreement based on quotas without U.S. participation would be seriously compromised, the delegates said.

Meanwhile, the \$10 billion a year international coffee trade will, for the immediate future, be genuinely free.

Delegates said exporters able to make good the Brazilian shortfall in the months ahead are likely to use this to justify a bigger market share when quotas are renegotiated.

Soviet papers criticise lagging oil output

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party daily Pravda said Saturday the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, failed to meet production targets for the fifth consecutive year in 1985 and expressed concern that output already is lagging behind planned levels for 1986.

In a front-page article, Pravda criticised officials in charge of the oil industry for dragging their feet in implementing plans to boost production.

Similar criticism was levelled in the national newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya.

They blamed oil industry and government officials for failing to make technological improvements fast enough, especially in the Tyumen region of Western Siberia, which produces about 60 per cent of Soviet oil.

"The plan of last year wasn't fulfilled," Pravda said, adding that work already is lagging behind the plan for 1986.

"The (oil) ministry, together

with adjoining branches, have worked out the programmes for speeding up scientific and technological progress in working the wells, and the appropriate schedules were composed and the orders were given," Pravda said.

"There have been resolutions, but so far there is little return from them," it added.

Pravda did not provide figures on actual oil production last year. The official target had been set at about 630 million tons.

The news agency TASS reported last fall that oil output for the first nine months of 1985 declined three per cent, to 445 million tons, from the year-earlier period.

Soviet oil output declined for the first time on a year-to-year

basis in 1984, falling to 613 million tons from 616.3 million in 1983.

Since then the state-run media have issued repeated calls to improve production facilities and living conditions in the oil fields.

Last February, Soviet Oil Minister, Mr. Nikolai A. Maltsev, was replaced by Mr. Vasily A. Dinkov, former head of the more successful natural gas ministry.

In April, several managers in the Tyumen region were fired for incompetence, Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, visited the region in September, and in a speech he criticised lagging construction and "nitpicking" obstacles by bureaucrats that he said hamper production.

Sovetskaya Rossiya quoted a Tyumen Communist Party official as saying that equipment needed to open 18 new oil deposits to meet the 1986 plan was being delivered slowly, and that roads to new well sites won't be ready on time.

"To compensate for this lack of

oil from new deposits, the oil workers are planning to overload again the old wells," the newspaper said. "However, in last year's plan, this manoeuvre, as is known, didn't help, but just aggravated the situation."

The Soviet Union earns much of the hard currency it needs for grain and high-technology imports from energy sales.

Soviet natural gas output has continued to grow sharply. It increased to 387 billion cubic metres in 1984, the last year for which figures are available, from 336 billion cubic metres the previous year.

Chemical and oil industry machinery minister retires

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian engineer was named Saturday as new minister for chemical and petroleum equipment building, replacing a 78-year-old who had held the job for more than 20 years.

Soviet news media said Mr.

Vladimir M. Lukyanenko, now head of a national institute on compressors, would replace Mr. Konstantin I. Brezhnev, who was reported to have retired for health reasons.

Soviet oil workers were quoted as blaming the quality of their equipment in particular for flagging oil output.

TASS said Mr. Lukyanenko was born in 1937 and followed a course of studies in mechanical engineering.

He began work in 1961 at a machine-building plant in the regional town of Sumy in the Ukraine, rising to become general director of the plant in 1976.

Later, he became head of a national compressor institute, TASS said.

Mr. Lukyanenko's biography is typical of the men who recently have risen to replace aged bureaucrats in personnel changes.

So far, about 20 of the Soviet Union's 59 national ministries have gotten new chiefs under Mr. Gorbachev.

Industrialised states to open trade talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior ministers of the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Community (EC) meet this week to try to map out a common strategy for global trade liberalisation talks planned for Geneva this autumn.

U.S. and EC officials said the ministers would also tackle some knotty trade problems marring their bilateral ties. The United States has trade deficits with all three.

Officials said the talks, at the southern California resort city of Coronado would centre on several major issues of the planned international session.

The Geneva session is to be formally agreed on at a September meeting of the 90-member world trading group GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

Among the issues to be taken up at the three-day Coronado meeting are counterfeit goods, better ways to settle world trade disputes, rules for aiding domestic industries hurt by imports and subsidising natural resources, such as oil and gas.

U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, will host the meeting, which the four partners hold semi-annually.

High on the agenda of the Coronado talks will be how to stem the flow of counterfeit goods that are flooding Western nations, chiefly the United States.

U.S. officials have long pressed developing Asian nations to clamp down on firms that illegally make and sell patented and copyrighted products — ranging from designer jeans to birth control pills and fertilisers.

Counterfeits are estimated to cost the legal holders of the so-called intellectual rights to the products some \$80 billion in sales annually.

The four are also seeking better and quicker methods to resolve trade disputes between GATT signatories.

Oil prices set to fall sharply soon

LONDON (R) — Oil prices are soon set to fall sharply as Britain and Saudi Arabia battle to sell their crude on shrinking international markets, traders and industry analysts say.

With Saudi Arabia steadily boosting its output and Britain continuing to produce almost flat out from its North Sea fields, prices will almost inevitably drop at least \$6 per barrel, they forecast.

Britain's Brent crude currently trades at about \$25.50 per barrel for cargoes loading this month and the Saudi light grade for some \$2 more.

But one senior trader said: "I think prices at \$18 to \$20 next summer are going to be a fact of life." Other traders and analysts polled by Reuters agreed with this view.

This price also backs up forecasts made by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani as long ago as last September.

He then said prices could plunge to between \$15 and \$18 if producers outside OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) did not cooperate with the 13-nation group in stabilising world markets by limiting pro-

duction. Attempts by former OPEC president, Dr. Subroto, of Indonesia to win support from other producers failed. Analysts say this has led to the confrontation now being played out on world markets.

Some analysts say sub-\$20 prices could come much sooner than the northern hemisphere's spring, when milder weather will cut oil demand.

"We're thinking in terms of weeks rather than months," said Mr. Mehdi Varzi, analyst at stockbrokers Greaveson, Grant.

Since 1980, OPEC oil's share of the non-communist world market has shrunk from some two-thirds to just one-third, undercut by crudes from outside the group.

Last August, once-mighty Saudi Arabia saw its production fall to a humiliating 20-year low of two million barrels a day (b/d) as customers deserted it in droves in favour of cheaper oil, especially from the North Sea.

But then Riyadh got tough. It started offering big discounts by linking prices to the value of oil products and soon its sales shot up.

The industry generally agrees

Saudi Arabia will produce between five and 5.5 million b/d this month.

"At the moment the Saudis are saying 'to hell with the price, we're going to sell as much as possible,'" said Mr. Varzi. "A game of poker is being played (between OPEC and non-OPEC producers) and at the moment no one's willing to stand down."

North Sea prices have fallen some \$5 since early last month when OPEC ministers decided to defend their market share. A ministerial committee will gather on Feb. 3 to decide how large this share should be and how to defend it.

Pumping oil from under the hostile North Sea is expensive. But Saudi Arabia's costs are a matter of cents per barrel, putting it at an advantage in any price war.

"Presumably if oil prices go below \$20 you'll see some major rethinking among North Sea producers," said Mr. Varzi. But he added: "The Saudis are looking for major concessions" before they would consider cutting production.

Although Britain's government says it will not interfere in North

Sea output — a policy that has led oil companies to produce as much as possible — it has the legal right to order cuts. But Mr. Varzi stressed he saw no sign of this happening at the moment.

Mr. Mike Unsworth of stockbrokers Scott, Goff, Layton doubted whether OPEC would see a price war through. "In the short term they'll try to force non-OPEC producers to negotiate," he said, but eventually loss of income would force them to back off.

Many OPEC countries rely almost entirely on oil revenue whereas developed nations such as Britain find it an important, but not essential, contribution to income.

The chief losers would be cash-strapped producers with large populations to feed, such as Indonesia and Nigeria in OPEC and Mexico and Egypt outside.

Jakarta last week decided to prune heavily its development budget.

But there are glimmers of hope. Prices could perk up a few dollars towards next winter as demand picks up, said Mr. Unsworth.

U.S. sees vital element in privatisation

WASHINGTON (R) — Strange as it seems, Washington's busy government-owned national airport might soon be for sale. So might the U.S. postal service and several electric power generating plants.

Any or all of them are expected, to be on a list of targets drawn up by the Reagan administration in pursuit of a strategy to reduce towering budget deficits by selling to private industry assets considered inefficient or nonessential.

The approach is not only in line with President Ronald Reagan's professed desire for lessening the role of government in Americans' lives, but appears to follow also from an unabashed admiration for Britain's success in privatising bil-

lions of dollars worth of government services under Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

White House officials, commenting on the Thatcher government's sale of nationalised British Telecom and other companies with an overall price tag of about \$20 billion, said Britain has "showed how to do it and how to do it with imagination."

Besides companies, the British government has sold nearly one million public housing units to private owners, contracted many health and welfare services out to private concerns and announced its intention to transfer key parts of the social welfare system to the private sector.

With a new federal budget expected to go to Congress as early as Feb. 3, and Mr. Reagan still insisting taxes cannot be raised nor cuts made in defence or social security benefits, attention has turned increasingly to plans for putting U.S. government assets on the auction block.

Mr. Stuart Butler of the conservative Heritage Foundation commented in an interview that there were big political benefits for the administration from using this tactic to divert demand for government services into the private sector.

The really attractive feature, if it is done properly, is that you're not eliminating a service so the government can cut its spending without saying 'no' to the citizens," he said.

Under the whip of balanced-budget legislation, signed into law last month by Mr. Reagan, the administration must present proposals for lowering the deficit by about \$55 billion to meet a target of \$144 billion for the 1987 fiscal year which begins Oct. 1.

Failure to achieve the deficit goals would trigger automatic spending reductions that would cut into not only domestic spending programmes but also defence — a possibility administration officials fervently want to avoid.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds some delays and obstacles in the path of the conditions you want to put into motion, so don't try to push, but do them in a conscientious manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Keep busy solving problems and they are soon behind you, so don't go off on any tangents.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get into interesting new activities and forget troubles that are annoying you. Get a new lease on life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may find that both bigwigs and partners can be disappointing in daytime but can be very cooperative in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy at important work you have to do and don't leave it just for pleasure. Get it finished early.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make sure you handle important work and pay pressing bills before you take off with a good friend for recreation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure to schedule your time and activities so that there will be no conflict between your family and a partner now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get important correspondence handled early, and then see how best to make improvements in your environment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Schedule your time so that you can give attention to business matters and creative ones as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may disagree with kin over personal matters but eventually come to the right meeting of minds.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Forget that private worry and go out and accomplish a great deal that is worthwhile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy at business matters and avoid friends who could prove disappointing today. Get advice from experts.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't permit a bigwig to discourage you with the handling of your job and think of your own personal betterment.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those fascinating young people who will buckle down to working long and hard hours but can easily develop a martyr complex if the remuneration is not adequate, so teach to consider this before a job is accepted. A good family person in this chart.

German arms managers go on trial today

BONN (R) — Officials of a leading West German arms firm go on trial in Düsseldorf on Monday charged with illegal weapons exports in a case which the country's arms industry says could have major implications for its future.

Three middle-grade managers of the Rheinmetall Company and a former employee are accused of flouting a strict government ban on the sale of military hardware to areas of tension.

The four are alleged to have secured government approval to supply buyers in Italy, Spain and Paraguay with arms between 1977 and 1980, knowing that the weapons would be channelled from there to South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Argentina.

Rheinmetall, whose products include the canon for the advanced Leopard-2 battle tank, insists the men are innocent.

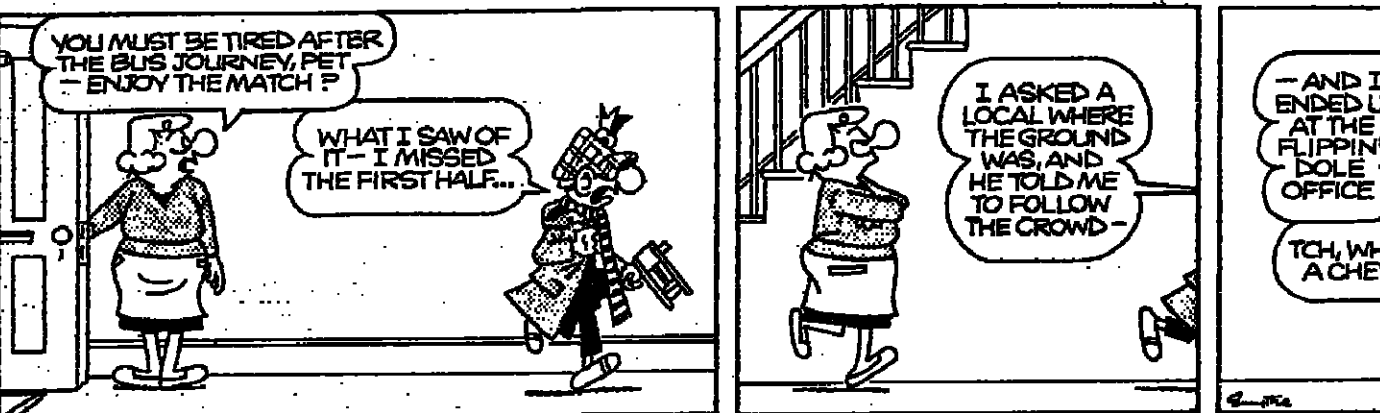
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

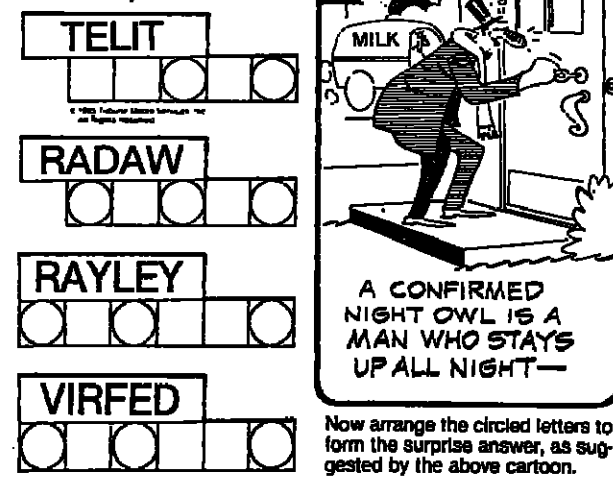


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: JETTY NOOSE TURKEY RECTOR
Yesterday's Jumble: What he got when he bought that stock—STUCK

THE Daily Crossword by John O'Hlsen



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Yesterday's Jumble: What he got when he bought that stock—STUCK

Spaniards, Portuguese to assume seat in European Parliament

BRUSSELS (R) — Spanish and Portuguese members of the European Parliament take their seats in Strasbourg today as the assembly prepares to give grudging approval to modest reforms in the European Community's (EC) founding treaty.

To mark the historic occasion, a special plane bringing all 84 new members to the first session of 1986 will be met at Strasbourg airport by the president of the parliament, Pierre Pflimlin, and other dignitaries.

The Iberian representatives, who qualified for their seats following the official entry of Spain and Portugal on New Year's Day, swell the total number of parliamentarians to 518.

The enlarged parliament will then turn its attention to delivering its verdict on reforms agreed at last month's EC summit in Brussels which fall far short of its dream of a European union in which it can command a say equal to that of member governments.

The Strasbourg assembly must

effectively decide whether to vote down or back the package of minor reforms tortuously worked out by EC leaders at the Luxembourg summit. They would slightly ease the cumbersome workings of the group and give parliament more powers while leaving the final say in the hands of member governments.

Italy has said it would withhold its support from the package if the European parliamentarians rejected it, effectively giving them a right of veto.

But parliament sources said that, despite its disappointment, the assembly is likely to swallow its pride and back the measures after voicing severe criticism.

"It is a bitter pill, but the general feeling is that it's better than

nothing," one spokesman said.

Parliament's powerful institutional committee which led the fight for radical reforms has toned down its previous criticism of the Luxembourg package. It is now recommending qualified acceptance of the package while noting the failure of national capitals to take real steps towards European union.

The 20 new Portuguese and 64 Spanish entrants introduce the first fresh blood into the chamber since 1980 when Greece joined the EC, but will not affect its overall balance.

The Iberian members have been chosen by their respective parliaments and not directly elected like other members of the assembly. Spanish and Portuguese voters will have their first chance to elect their representatives at the next European elections in 1989.

With the addition of 36 Spaniards and six Portuguese, the socialists remain the largest group and now command 172 votes.

Exiles said to have swelled ANC

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Thousands of militants have left South Africa in the last 18 months to swell the ranks of the exiled African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement, a South African newspaper reported on Sunday.

City Press, South Africa's main black paper, quoted exile sources as saying the exodus was larger than in 1976 when about 4,000 people left the country for commando training abroad.

It said the ANC, fighting to topple the white minority rule in South Africa, had an estimated 7,000 trained fighters in 1984 and the number was now far higher.

ANC President Oliver Tambo said at a news conference in the Zambian capital of Lusaka last week that the ANC was calling for a "rapid, extensive escalation" of its military offensive.

The reported swelling of the ANC's ranks coincides with a wave of political violence in South Africa which has claimed the lives of more than 1,050 people in the last two years.

The Sunday Star newspaper reported that the ANC launched a record number of armed attacks in South Africa last year.

The Pretoria-based Institute of Strategic Studies told the newspaper that there were 136 armed attacks in 1985 compared with 44 in 1984.

There has been a marked increase in guerrilla attacks in the last few months. Eight whites have died in landmine blasts near South Africa's northern border in the last month and five whites were killed when a bomb exploded at an Indian Ocean holiday resort in December.

Johannesburg police said on Sunday at least five people were injured in anti-apartheid unrest in South Africa's black townships during the night.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said four people were injured in Johannesburg's Alexandra township Saturday in clashes between black residents and security forces after a funeral.

One of the injured was a policeman who broke a leg and a shoulder jumping out of an armoured personnel carrier when a petrol bomb landed inside.

Three other men were injured when police fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, police said.

Another policeman was slightly injured when his vehicle was stoned in Zwarte township in western Cape province.

Fresh violence fuels fears in Punjab

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Gunmen shot dead a doctor and wounded a second person in Punjab shortly after a senior police officer predicted that Sikh extremists would step up attacks in the North Indian state.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the doctor was killed by suspected extremists in his clinic in the Barnala area Saturday night. Hours later gunmen wounded a man riding on a scooter in northern Hoshiarpur district.

A third man died of injuries received in an extremist attack in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on Jan. 6. Thirteen people have now been killed in extremist violence in Punjab since Monday.

Amritsar district police chief S.S. Virk said on Saturday he expected more violence because large numbers of Sikh extremists were crossing into Punjab from Pakistan after Indian security forces

relaxed patrols on the border.

India has accused Pakistan of providing shelter to Sikh extremists, a charge Pakistan rejects.

Official sources said thousands of Sikhs fled to Pakistan after troops stormed their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, in 1984 to oust extremists fighting for a separate state in Punjab.

Police said security, tightened for a protest road blockade in Punjab on Friday, would be maintained until after Indian Republic Day on Jan. 26 when more trouble was expected.

Three people were killed during the blockade, called by the militant All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) to press demands including the release of all jailed suspected Sikh extremists.

Jan. 26 has been set by the AISSF as the date for the demolition and the rebuilding of the Akal Takht, one of the Sikhs' holiest buildings. It was damaged in

the Golden Temple action.

The Akal Takht was repaired under government supervision, but hardline Sikhs consider the rebuilding to be unholy.

Another flashpoint on Republic Day could be a dispute over Chandigarh, scheduled to become Punjab's exclusive capital on Jan. 26 under a peace accord. The city is now the joint capital of Punjab and neighbouring Haryana state.

Analysts say the confrontation on Republic Day will determine the future of Sikh politics. This has spurred fears that the authorities again may have to send police into the Golden Temple.

A senior police official, who asked not to be named, told the AP Punjab authorities now have asked for an additional 46 paramilitary companies — totalling 6,165 troops — to increase security forces to more than 81,000 by Jan. 26.

Dhaka hopeful over end to tribal revolt

DHAKA (R) — Military commanders negotiating peace with tribal guerrillas in Bangladesh's southern hill tracts district said on Sunday the rebels might give up their arms and return to normal lives soon.

The 13,000 square-kilometre area of dense forest and rugged hills has for years been the scene of battles between troops and tribal rebels seeking political autonomy. More than 6,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

"But we hope the home of nearly 30 tribes will become a valley of peace soon," said Major Mohammad Mawla, one of the government negotiators.

Major Mawla told Reuters talks with the rebels were making progress and many guerrillas had already decided to return to normal

lives. He declined to give details.

More than 3,500 rebels, members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini (Peace Force), surrendered during an 18-month amnesty which ended last April and the government hoped most of the remaining 3,000 guerrillas would lay down their arms shortly, he said.

Col. Mawla said the rebels might decide to surrender en masse following a government pledge not to charge them for insurgency and instead give them money and jobs to rehabilitate them in society.

The worst violence hit the hill tracts, which border Burma and India's Assam state, three years ago after the government started

resettling thousands of people from the crowded plains in the area.

In protest the guerrillas killed nearly 200 settlers, wounded 1,000 others and burned their homes. They complained that the government was trying to destroy their culture, steal their land and gradually turn them into a minority.

The insurgency weakened after one of the main leaders, Manabendra Lama, was killed in a shootout shortly afterwards and many of his followers surrendered.

Officials told Reuters the rebels had also lost support of several tribal chieftains who wanted a negotiated settlement.

Sri Lankan rebels call off ceasefire

NEW DELHI (R) — Tamil guerrillas groups said on Sunday they were calling off an eight-month-old truce with Sri Lankan security forces, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The news agency quoted a spokesman for the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLFF) alliance of Tamil groups as saying the ceasefire failed because of what he described as Sri Lankan army atrocities.

The spokesman, speaking in the South Indian city of Madras, said the guerrillas would now take defensive action to protect the minority Tamils in the ethnic conflict with the island's Sinhalese majority.

Indian mediation led to a truce between the two sides in June and

paved the way for peace talks between the guerrillas and Sri Lankan officials in Bhutan.

A 11-member committee was set up in October to monitor the ceasefire but violations by both sides have been reported almost daily.

The ENLFF spokesman said two Tamil members on the committee had quit after one was attacked by security forces and the other was threatened by unidentified people.

He said alliance leaders would meet soon in Madras to discuss their next step and brief the Indian government on their stand regarding the truce and the monitoring committee.

The ENLFF and other Tamil separatist groups have offices in

Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state where 50 million people have close links with Sri Lanka's Tamils.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told volunteer army recruits on Saturday to maintain discipline even under provocation.

At least 15 Tamil guerrillas and one soldier were killed on Friday in stepped raids on rebel hideouts in northern Sri Lanka.

In Colombo, the national news agency Lankapuwath said President Junius Jayewardene had accepted the resignations of the two Tamil members of the ceasefire committee.

It gave no reasons why K. Sivathambi and K. Sivapalan had quit.

Explorers reach South Pole; support ship crushed in ice

LONDON (Agencies) — Three Britons retracing the Antarctic journey of explorer Robert F. Scott reached the South Pole on Saturday, but the support ship sent to take them home has been crushed by the ice and sunk, the expedition organiser said.

Peter Christopherson, the London-based organiser, said Robert Swan, 26, Roger Mear, 35, and Gareth Wood, 33, had reached the pole at 11:53 p.m. GMT after an 1,341 kilometre trek.

Mr. Christopherson said no one was hurt in the loss of the ship, the Southern Quest, which had been moored at an ice floe near Cape Evans and the Jack Hayward base camp.

All 24 crew were rescued from the ice by a U.S. helicopter and were taken to the American base at McMurdo for medical checks, he said.

Mr. Christopherson said the single-engine plane carried on board had been taken off before the accident and would be flown to the South Pole to pick up the three men after their walk, according to plan.

Pilot Giles Kershaw was to ferry two of the men back to base and then return to the pole to pick up the third man and the equipment.

Once back at the Jack Hayward base, the whole expedition, including Dr. Mike Stroud and film

cameraman John Tolson who waited at the camp, was to sail back to Lyttelton, New Zealand.

On Nov. 2, 1911, Scott set off from Jack Hayward and arrived at the pole Jan. 18, 1912, shortly after Norwegian Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the pole. Scott and his four companions perished on the return trip.

The three new explorers set out on Nov. 2, 1984, 74 years to the day since Scott began his journey. Like Scott, they carried no radio equipment and received no outside back-up of any kind.

The three were last sighted on Dec. 10 as they approached the Beardmore glacier, the most dangerous part of the journey. They walked and skied for a year, each dragging a sleigh of provisions, eating the same menu of dried and instant food every day plus 250 grammes of butter each to keep up the fat level, Mr. Christopherson said.

The \$1.5 million expedition was sponsored by 700 companies, for which the four conducted research and experiments such as testing equipment in temperatures ranging from minus 15 to minus 20 degrees Celsius and measuring the level of pollution in the ocean.

They were originally expected back in London in mid-February.

Venezuela appeals to Contadora to continue peace effort

CARABALLEDA, Venezuela (R) — Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has told eight American foreign ministers that the Contadora group's efforts for peace in Central America must continue.

"Contadora has not died, nor can it die, because Contadora is more than an ideal of peace, it is a will, it is a conviction," Mr. Lusinchi said in a speech at the start of the two-day meeting in this seaside resort on Saturday.

The gathering was called by Venezuela to try to pump new life into the Contadora initiative, sagging after three years of fruitless work since its creation by Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

Attending the meeting were the foreign ministers of the four Contadora nations and those of a support group made up of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

Most of the foreign ministers flew in Friday night and held an informal meeting on Saturday.

"We carried out an extremely crude and realistic analysis of the situation and the immense difficulties facing... attempts to bring peace to Central America," Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said afterwards.

The conclusions of this weekend's meeting are to be put to Central American leaders at the inauguration on Tuesday of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, which will be attended by all eight foreign ministers present at Caraballeda.

Five Central American heads of state will witness Mr. Cerezo's swearing-in, in the first meeting of its kind since the Nicaraguan revolution of 1979.

Mr. Lusinchi told the ministers on Saturday that peace in Latin America and the Caribbean hinged on a settlement of Central American conflicts.

Three of the six countries in the region are fighting guerrilla insurgencies and, while Cuba and the Soviet Union are strongly behind leftist Nicaragua, Washington supports Nicaraguan rebels and the embattled government of El Salvador.

Summing up Contadora's achievements since it was founded on its namesake Panamanian island resort in January 1983, Mr. Lusinchi said it had helped ward off "a greater rupture of the peace."

Chinese leaders defend economic reforms

PEKING (R) — China's leaders are fiercely defending their economic reforms amid signs of fresh criticism from Communist Party diehards who say the measures have spawned rising prices, corruption and power abuses.

Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun passionately praised the reforms to 8,000 party, military and government officials at a conference in the Great Hall of the People.

In his speech last week, given blanket coverage by the country's main newspapers on Sunday, Mr. Tian said the last six years had been among China's best since the Communists took power in 1949.

Living standards had risen rapidly and major advances had been made in science, technology and education following six years of reforms masterminded by Deng Xiaoping.

"But, despite these major achievements, there still remain a large number of problems and difficulties," he said, adding there was great public concern over

"malpractices and the illegal gain of enormous profits."

The account of Mr. Tian's speech followed a stern lecture by party chief Hu Yaobang to a rally, also last week, in which he accused many administrators of lacking discipline, indulging in favouritism or dishonesty and sacrificing their dignity in trade deals with foreigners.

Mr. Hu, urging a crackdown on lawbreakers, said citizens had the right to report serious wrongdoings by their superiors, including the central committee itself.

The speeches by Mr. Tian and Mr. Hu coincide with stories of rampant corruption splashed daily across the front pages of China's newspapers. State auditors have uncovered fraud, waste and tax evasion totalling 8.9 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) since September 1983. The corruption is posing a threat to Mr. Deng's drive to turn China into a major economic

power by the 21st century.

Mr. Deng retired many of China's veteran party cadres and promoted younger men last autumn in a move designed to stifle criticism of his reforms. But he still faces hardcore opposition in the government, party and military.

A Western diplomat said the reformists were on the defensive against critics. "But their political position is still strong. Despite discontent below, they still hold the key posts. No viable alternative strategy or leadership has yet emerged," he added.

In what diplomats saw as a tilt at party diehards, Mr. Hu said in his speech: "We have to oppose not only the tendency of bourgeois liberalisation, which considers Marxism outdated, but also the erroneous tendency to consider Marxist theories as stereotyped dogmas."

Mr. Tian said: "Our economic reforms will absolutely not lead to capitalism."

Tension eases in Bolivian narcotics area as farmers end siege of police camp

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Most of the estimated 17,000 coca leaf farmers encircling a camp of 245 narcotics officers quit their siege on Saturday and military intervention will not be needed, officials said.

Edgar Merwin, Washington's adviser to the U.S.-financed narcotics unit, said fewer than 100 growers still surrounded the elite "Leopards" police camp, although roads to the camp remained blocked and farming leaders threatened violence if the police did not leave the area.

The officers have been trapped in their remote camp in central Bolivia since Tuesday by coca farmers angered by the government campaign to disrupt cocaine production. Cocaine is made from the coca leaf.

The farmers also contend that two drug-trafficking officers raped a local woman.

Leaders of the local farmers federation said in a statement released to reporters on Saturday that "acts of violence and confrontations may result if the Leopards remain in the area and continue committing abuses."

But Colonel Guido Lopez, Bolivia's top narcotics officer, said that because fewer coca leaf farmers were manning roadblocks cutting off the Leopards from food supplies, there was no need for military intervention.

The police camp is at Ivagazama, a village in Bolivia's tropical Chapare region.

The government said on Friday it might have to send troops to rescue the police.

But Col. Lopez said on Saturday: "It is no longer necessary to send troops because farmers are returning to their normal activities."

Mr. Merwin said the roadblocks

were now manned mainly by drug traffickers, and growers were losing interest.

"There is no doubt cocaine traffickers are behind the blockade," said Mr. Merwin, who has maintained regular radio contact with the Leopards camp.

The Leopards were set up in 1983 with financial help from the U.S. government. Mr. Merwin is a former special forces officer contracted by the State Department to advise and train the unit.

The United States, the major market for the cocaine, has said it will cut off aid to Bolivia unless it reduces coca production by nearly 10,000 acres. American aid since President Victor Paz Estenssoro was sworn in Aug. 6 has totalled \$64.5 million.

Beginning in December, the Bolivian government promised farmers \$350 for every hectare they take out of coca production.

Long-distance love affair proves hoax for South Korean

DHAKA (R) — A 60-year-old South Korean man flew from Libya to Bangladesh clutching a bag of jewels and cash for the girl of his dreams — only to find he had been cheated by one of his employees. The woman whose photograph aroused the passion of businessman Kun Jo Ham turned out to be a top film star, married with two children — and she had never heard of him. An anguished Kun told reporters his long-distance love affair was invented by a Bangladeshi worker, Saber Ali, in his firm in Libya. For several years he had told him he was negotiating Kun's marriage with a Bangladeshi girl named Shabana.

"Ali even showed me photographs of my beautiful fiancée, brought me her letters and in return collected handsome gifts," he said. Kun flew to Bangladesh to claim his bride and even went to a remote village which Ali said was her ancestral home. "But friends here now tell me, after seeing the photographs, that Shabana is a top film heroine, married to a wealthy businessman and has two children," he said. "Everything was a hoax and I don't know what I'll do with the bastard if I get hold of him back in Libya." Kun added.

LSD discoverer celebrates birthday

ZURICH (R) — Albert Hofmann, the former Swiss research chemist who discovered LSD and was the first person to experience its hallucinatory effects, celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday, still convinced of the drug's overall benefit. "LSD can be good, even necessary... in the area of experimental psychiatry," Hofmann told the Geneva daily La Suisse. "The abuses it has been subject to have nothing to do with my work," said Hofmann, who worked for Basle-based pharmaceutical company Sandoz AG from 1929 until 1971, produced LSD as a possible means of improving circulation in 1938 and tried it on himself five years later. He described his experience of the drug as a "mixture of good and terrifying memories."

3 Chinese complete trek of Great Wall

PEKING (AP) — Three young men have finished a 6,450-kilometre trek along China's Great Wall that began in May 1984, the state-run news agency Xinhua reported. Travelling on foot, Zhang Yuanhua, Dong Yaobai and Wu Deyu, all workers from northern China, took 7,000 photographs and wrote a 40,000-word report during the expedition, the agency said. Xinhua quoted Zhang as saying they took leave from work without pay in order to make the trip. The 2,200-year-old battlement was built to keep out Mongol invaders and other enemies from the north. Much of the wall is in ruins, with only small sections restored as tourist sites.

Pop stars attend rocker's funeral

DUBLIN (R) — Pop stars on Saturday joined hundreds of fans at the funeral of Irish rock musician Phil Lynott, who died a week ago. Lynott, 35, former leader of the group Thin Lizzy, collapsed on Christmas Day and died 13 days later of pneumonia and heart failure. Among the stars at the funeral in the Dublin suburb of Howth were fellow Irishmen Bob Geldof, organiser of the Live Aid concert for African famine relief, and Bono, leader of the rock group U2.

Swiss court awards compensation for lost earnings of prostitute

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The Swiss supreme court has ruled that a Zurich court was wrong to deny a prostitute compensation for lost earnings, after she was seriously injured in a car accident. The court said on Saturday prostitution might offend against public morals but was not illegal. Because prostitutes paid tax and national insurance contributions on their earnings they had the same rights as ordinary citizens. Following the 1971 accident, the unnamed Zurich woman, then aged 27, demanded more than two million francs (now, worth more than \$1 million) for medical costs, compensation, and lost earnings until her 45th birthday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ K

♦ A J 5 3

♦ J 9 7 2

♦ A 9 6 3

WEST

♦ A Q 5 3

♦ K 10 8 4

♦ 10 5

♦ 8 5 4

EAST

♦ J 10 9 8 6

♦ Q 7 2

♦ 4

♦ K J 10 2

SOUTH

♦ 7 2

♦ 9 8

♦ A K Q 8 6 3

♦ Q 7

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♦ 1 ♣

Pass Pass 4 ♣ Pass

5 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

So you pride yourself on your defensive ability. Cover up the East and South cards and decide how you would defend against five diamonds after your ace of spades wins the first trick.

Most players using five-card major methods would open the North hand with one diamond. The only difference that would have made to the final contract is that North would have been declarer at five diamonds, and the contract would have been much harder to defeat had the North hand been con-